

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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I N S I D E

See NORITA on Page 8

See HOUSE on Page 8

Local

Comedian Navarette doubles-up Saipan

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Wild laughter and frequent applause filled the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach’s Hibiscus Hall on Saturday night as Filipino-American comedian Rex Navarette performed for some 500 people, joking about the Filipino mentality, immigrant experience, and his mother.

Following a short pre-show by Guam’s amateur comedy series champion Frank Rios, Navarette took the stage with nothing but a bottle of water. For the next hour and a half, he brought to life his famous characters, from his ESL [“English as a Stupid Language”] teacher Mrs. Scott to his Irish high school friend Brian and to his Uncle [or “Tito”] Boy.

Navarette humored the crowd with his stories about his early years in the San Francisco Bay Area, knowing only one English sentence, and having his grandfather for a babysitter. He also told hilarious jokes about the Filipino accent and the many “similarities” between the Irish and the Filipino peoples. [“The Irish were butchered by the English; us



Filipinos butcher English.”] In fact, his mother and her own prejudice against Filipinos have provided Navarette with most of his material for his lampooning and often irreverent routines.

He made fun of his mother’s strange pieces of advice whenever he went traveling to the Philippines: blink your eyes only twice a day so kidnappers won’t think you’re Chinese, and surround yourself with *chicharon* to keep the Muslim extremists away.

Navarette went on to comment on the practice of Filipinos, or Asians for that matter, of using their bare hands for eating. “Quoting” his mother, Navarette posed the question: “If I used my hand to eat rice at home, I’m Third World; but if I ate at McDonald’s and used my hand to pick French Fries, I’m First World?”

In an interview after the show, Navarette said he had fun performing for the Saipan crowd, which has been receptive to his comedy.

“The audience was excellent. I don’t know if you guys get stand up comedy here often, but it was really nice to perform for the first time here in front of a fresh audience. The people just let go of a lot of stuff,” said Navarette, who has been in the entertainment busi-

ness for 15 years now. He said he tries to make his routine universal to get more people to connect with his jokes. The immigrant experience, he said, is one good example of a universal theme.

“Everyone has immigrant experience, making some kind of transition to a new land. There’s a lot of comedy you can find in adjusting and discrimination,” he said.

While he normally has a working script for his acts, Navarette leaves room for spontaneity during his performances.

“I write down ideas, but I don’t necessarily script them all out. I just kind of like use the stage as my work-in-progress board. If [a joke] is good, I keep it. I remember it for the next time and develop it some more. The routines sometimes come on stage, or when you’re walking around, getting some groceries or just observing people,” he said.

Navarette started doing stand up comedy at age 19. In his trade, he has found a venue to comment on things that otherwise would not be mentioned.

“I guess it is my mission to showcase Filipino life and the mind of the Filipino. We’re beyond the United States now. We’re everywhere; we’re really part of the world,” Navarette said.

Nevertheless, he said he

does not claim to be able to reach every Filipino through his comedy. He noted that there are some Filipinos who actually find offensive or insulting the things he talks about on stage.

“They’d say, ‘You’re on stage with an accent; we don’t have an accent.’ But yes, we do and it’s okay. You’re the one discriminating against yourself when you start teaching Filipinos to be ashamed,” Navarette said. “That is the sound of my characters. I’m not going to fake it or make it cheap. I’m going to give you the real sound.”

And what does his mother think? “At first, she found me very offensive. But now that I’ve become ‘famous’ in her eyes and her friends’ eyes, she’s accepting it,” he replied. He added that the prejudice against Filipinos he portrays on stage signifies not so much his mother’s own attitude on how Filipinos in general think of their fellowmen.

Organizer Nathan Sablan described Budweiser’s Rxxxx Rated Comedy Show as very successful. He said Marpac, which distributes the beer brand in the CNMI, plans to bring more comedy acts to the island.

Other sponsors were Continental Airlines, Dai-Ichi Hotel, Aquarius Beach Tower, Budget Rental Car, Coca Cola, Power 99, and The Rock.

verizon  
cmyk

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed photos of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details for description of the event, location of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place, the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the date of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to [islandphotos@saipantribune.com](mailto:islandphotos@saipantribune.com). To check if contributions are received, call 223-6207, 223-3446, or 223-4743.

PHI

lottery

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pierce  
+RED




WEATHER FORECAST

PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8n from 130e to 153 and between the Equator and 6n from 160e to 180. A cold front stretches from 25n161e to 20n146e and continues as a shear line to 19n130e. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12n and 18n from 132e to 150e. This area includes the Mariana Islands.





**SAIPAN AND TINIAN**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.





**GUAM AND ROTA**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.


**PALAU**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15 kt.




















**POHNPEI**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15 kt.

**YAP AND ULITHI**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15-20 kt.

**KOSRAE**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 10-15 kt.

**CHUUK**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15-20 kt.

**MAJURO**  
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Sunny	71F (22C)	60F (16C)
 Beijing	Sunny	65F (18C)	48F (9C)
 Hong Kong	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
 London, England	Sunny	45F (7C)	30F (-1C)
 Los Angeles	Sunny	79F (26C)	59F (15C)
 Manila	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	73F (23C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	75F (24C)	59F (15C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
 New York City	Cloudy	40F (4C)	34F (1C)
 Osaka	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Paris	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	39F (4C)
 Rome	Cloudy	49F (9C)	30F (-1C)
 Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	40F (4C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
 Seoul	Partly Cloudy	47F (8C)	35F (2C)
 Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	36F (2C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	45F (7C)	34F (1C)

JOETEN MOTORS  
+BLUE

FHB



# Interior Department on front lines of coral reef conservation

The Department of Interior is playing a key role in a science-based, community-level campaign to protect coral reefs and is working with a variety of state, territorial and international partners to increase understanding of the problems plaguing these sensitive ecosystems around the globe, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Craig Manson said today.

This week in Miami, scientists and coral reef managers from the department will join their counterparts from Florida, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and six Pacific island jurisdictions to discuss the health of U.S. coral reefs and efforts to save them.

“Interior Department agencies are leading the way in efforts to deal with the crisis in our coral reefs,” said Manson, who is co-chair of the United States Coral Reef Task Force.

“We have made significant progress in recent years but there is much to be done. We need a global effort to study and reverse the threats to these sensitive ecosystems.”

Coral reefs are storehouses of immense biological value that provide an estimated \$375 billion each year to the world economy from recreation, tourism, food, pharmaceuticals, and other purposes. The benefits to Florida, for example, exceed \$3 billion.

Coral reefs also protect our coastlines from storm damage and prevent erosion, a benefit for Floridians and coastal communities in the Pacific during hurricanes and typhoons. They also provide shelter and food for as many as 10 million animals and plants and are the oldest and largest structures made by living organisms on the planet. The same factors that make

them so important make them vulnerable to over exploitation.

Five agencies within the Interior Department are working on the ground and underwater to monitor the health of coral reefs and enhance their protection. Much of the work is done collaboratively with local communities, state and territorial government agencies and academia to address threats to coral reef ecosystems.

National Park Service: In Florida, the National Park Service manages more than 800,000 acres of coral reefs and marine habitats in three National Parks. Biscayne National Park near Miami has joined forces with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a joint Fisheries Management Plan that transcends boundaries to restore fish populations across the Park

and state-managed areas. The National Park Service also put regulations in place to protect the new Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument and the expanded Buck Island Reef National Monument from anchoring and overfishing.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: National Wildlife Refuges protect approximately three million acres of coral reefs in Florida, the Caribbean, Hawaii and the Pacific. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sponsored local watershed protection projects in the Pacific islands that reduce land-based sources of pollution to coral reefs, has provided funding to restore habitat for sea turtles and other endangered species, and developed a mitigation strategy that will help federal agencies restore U.S. coral reef resources affected by federally funded coastal construction projects.

U.S. Geological Survey: The USGS is conducting vital research to increase understanding of how coral reefs respond to threats such as sediment pollution, water quality impacts, coral diseases and global climate change. The

USGS is determining causes of high levels of sedimentation on reefs in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. USGS scientists also are investigating the effects of global climate change on corals, including the ability of corals to resist increases in sea surface temperatures and intense ultraviolet radiation in the National Park of American Samoa.

Office of Insular Affairs: The Office of Insular Affairs provides technical and financial assistance to support management and protection of coral reefs in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Pacific islands of Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, where the majority of reefs under U.S. jurisdiction are located.

Minerals Management Service: Since the early 1970s, MMS has supported a comprehensive program of mapping, monitoring and protection for coral reefs of the East and West Flower Garden Banks, a National Marine Sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico. MMS used the information to develop lease stipulations for gas and oil exploration, development, and production near the Sanctuary

that have been completely effective in preventing environmental impacts.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force was established by Presidential Executive Order in 1998 to focus federal, state, and territorial efforts on the major threats to the nation’s coral reefs, and finding ways to stem those threats. Craig Manson, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, co-chairs the Task Force on behalf of Interior Secretary Gale Norton, along with Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere at the Department of Commerce.

Americans can learn more about the importance of coral reefs to products that they value in their lives. The next time you purchase salt water fish for your aquarium, buy grouper or yellow-fin tuna for dinner, or purchase a coral necklace for a loved one, think about where these resources originated. Buy products that were harvested in a responsible manner. Learn about coral reef products that are protected by international trade laws and don’t bring those products back into the U.S. from your vacation.

## 2004 W-2CM forms distribution to start today

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI employers that the distribution of the 2004 W-2CM forms and Instructions will begin today, Dec.

13, 2004 from 8am to 4pm at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Dandan Commercial Center.

All businesses and employ-

ers are asked, to pick up forms during the regular business hours beginning Dec. 13, 2004. The deadline for filing 2004 W-2CM form is Feb. 28, 2005 at 4:30pm.

JOSTEN MOTORS  
+BLUE

BOX TOPS  
+MAGENTA/BLUE

# House passes recycling deposit bill

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

Saying it would significantly help reduce solid waste and littering in the CNMI, the

The House of Representatives passed last week a bill mandating a deposit fee of not less than 5 cents and a payout for each beverage sold.

Lawmakers passed House Bill 14-211 or the proposed Recycling Deposit Fee and Payout Program Act of 2004, authored by Rep. Janet Maratita.

The House Ways and Means Committee said in a report that 50 percent of litter is comprised

of used beverage containers.

“Providing a payout incentive such as a recycling deposit fee and a payout program will deter and reduce littering,” said the committee, chaired by Rep. Norman S. Palacios.

Under the bill, a deposit fee of not less than 5 cents shall be levied and paid by the consumer on each beverage container purchased in the CNMI.

Upon return, at least 75 percent of the amount of the refund value shall be paid back to the consumer.

The refund is claimed from redemption centers, which can be set up by any individual upon approval of the Division

of Environmental Quality.

The bill provides that dealers shall remit all deposits collected each month to the CNMI Treasury under the “recycling deposit fund.” The funds collected would be used as reimbursement for refunded amounts and for expenses related to redemption centers’ activities.

Reverse vending machines may be used by redemption centers provided that the machine shall accept one or more types of empty deposit beverage containers and shall pay out appropriate refunds as coins or via a redeemable credit slip.

GLUSHKOS

# DCCA learns the ropes on dealing with conflict

Conflict is a necessary and healthy part of the life of all organizations. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs learned the truth of that statement at a personal development workshop on “Improved Communications” sponsored by the DCCA Division of Youth Services earlier this month.

The workshop, facilitated by Dr. Ken Shankweiler, elaborated on the importance of good communication skills in the workplace. The daylong training consisted of various group activities and discussions on the basic skills of communication and steps in dealing with conflict.

“The purpose of presenting this workshop on communication was to strengthen our staff’s understanding, skills, and provide them the tools needed when dealing with conflict,” said DYS director Victor Mesta. “As the end product, DYS and the department will be better prepared to obtain its goals and objectives.”

According to Shankweiler, how well a person communicates with people determines what he or she will become in life, personality-wise. As part of the training, participants were reminded to use simple language, to ask for feedback, to think about the receiver of the communication, and to focus on what the receiver needs and wants to know.

“The workshop taught me to be more patient and more understanding toward my co-workers’ needs,” said Genevieve Deleon Guerrero of the DCCA Office of the Secretary. “I also learned that just the way people look and say things also expresses how they really feel, and when others are already mad, I shouldn’t get mad because it only causes more stress.”

In resolving conflict, Shank-

weiler teaches that team leaders must focus on the objective facts, area of needs, and mutual goals; ask for possible solutions from both parties to resolve conflict; have both parties agree on solution; and set up a review. It’s a process that Juvenile Correction Worker I Ricardo R. Rasa plans to implement in his work at the DYS Juvenile Correction and Detention Unit.

“For our job in this field

working with the kids, we learned new skills on how to not let any conflict escalate,” said Rasa. “Even with co-workers, we learned how to deal with staff and control conflicts through procedures.”

The workshop was held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan and was participated in by several DCCA divisions: the Division of Youth Services, Office on Aging, Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Office of the Secretary.

CARS UNLIMITED

## Business

## Supreme Court to hear ISP, cable dispute

By HOPE YEN  
AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court agreed Friday to consider whether cable companies must open their high-speed lines to rival Internet providers.

Justices will hear two cases challenging a lower ruling forcing cable companies to share their lines. That October 2003 decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has been stayed pending the outcome of appeals.

At issue is whether cable-based broadband is a “telecommunications service” that makes it subject to strict Fed-

eral Communications Commission rules requiring phone companies to provide access to independent providers.

It is a case that pits government and cable interests in spurring growth of the technology against consumer interests in lower prices.

“If customers have a choice in high-speed providers, that will mean better service, greater availability, and lower prices,” said Dave Baker, a vice president at Atlanta-based Earthlink, a telephone-based Internet provider.

The National Cable & Telecommunications Association, which has invested \$90 billion

since 1996 to develop broadband service, disagrees. “Any type of government regulation to require cable operators to form partnerships would only deter investment, innovation and competition,” said spokesman Brian Dietz.

The Federal Communications Commission voted in March 2002 to exempt cable companies from strict rules to stir more investment. The FCC reasoned that high-speed Internet over cable was just an “information service,” making it different from phone companies.

But the FCC ruling left phone companies, which offer



AP  
An IBM ThinkPad computer, left, is shown next to a stack of text books that is issued to the typical fifth-grade at Johnson Elementary School, in Forney, Texas, in this , April 28, 2004, file photo.

rival digital subscriber lines, at a disadvantage. Though they must pay for upgrades, they’re subject to more regulation, including a much-debated rule requiring them to lease their infrastructure to rivals.

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell applauded the Supreme Court’s move to hear the case.

“The 9th Circuit’s decision would have grave consequen-

es for the future and availability of high-speed Internet connections in this country,” he said in a statement. “High-speed Internet connections are not telephones.”

The appeal is being brought by the FCC and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association in two appeals. They argue that a 1984 Supreme Court ruling requires

courts to defer to a federal agency’s expertise in deciding the best policy.

Most computer users access the Internet through dial-up services, but broadband connections, through phone and cable lines and satellites, are faster. Broadband, which costs about \$40 to \$50 a month, depending on location, also features video conferencing.

## Techs face scrutiny after poor 2004

NEW YORK (AP)—Technology stocks have underperformed the rest of the market so far this year, and professional investors have reduced their commitment to the industry as a growing number of analysts question the outlook for what was once Wall Street’s flashiest sector.

Among its more vulnerable areas is the computer manufacturing industry; although Dell Inc., Hewlett Packard Co. and Apple Computer released solid third-quarter earnings, a recent report from Gartner Group, an information technology research firm in Stamford, Conn., predicts massive consolidation as a current wave of corporate

PC-buying tapers off.

There’s a strong probability that three of the nation’s top 10 PC makers could be out of business by 2007, Gartner said. The report, released Nov. 29, did not speculate which companies might be affected by the consolidations, but suggested there simply would not be enough business in the future to support the current number of vendors.

“None of the companies is immune. Any one of them could have a problem,” said Leslie Fiering, a research vice president with Gartner. “With the lowered demand, you’re going to have a lot of vendors competing for smaller numbers of shipments

and smaller amounts of revenue. To meet this, we think they’ll have to take what could be as much as 2 percent out of their operating expenses ... and some companies will be able to meet that and others, it may catch them by surprise. We believe they are all vulnerable at this point.”

A report that International Business Machines Corp. is selling its PC business give credence to that point of view. The New York Times said Friday that IBM is negotiating with the Lenovo Group, China’s biggest PC maker, and at least one other unidentified prospective buyer for the unit.

## Target faces backlash for bell-ringer ban

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—When Florida was reeling from one hurricane after another during the summer, the Salvation Army was a welcome sight for thousands of storm victims. But with the holidays here, the charity’s bell-ringers and red kettles have been barred from Target stores.

Target decided earlier this year it could not permit Salvation Army bell ringers at any of its stores because doing so would be unfair to other charities wanting to solicit shoppers.

Now some shoppers are

fuming that the nation’s second-largest retailer would turn away a charity whose bell-ringers have long been a symbol of the holiday season.

“Target is this year’s Ebenezer Scrooge,” said Randy Sharp of the American Family Association, a Christian group which sent an e-mail this week to 2.3 million people urging them to shop elsewhere in protest of Target’s policy. “They are the Grinch that stole Christmas for a lot of needy children.”

Carolyn Brookter, a spokes-

woman for Target, said the chain always had a “no solicitation” policy at its stores but made an exception for the Salvation Army. But Brookter said more and more groups have been asking for permission to collect money at Target, forcing the company to re-examine its relationship with the Salvation Army.

“The best way we thought to deal with this situation is to have a consistent policy,” she said. “It absolutely was a difficult decision, it was not done lightly.”

VERIZON  
CMYK



# McDonald’s CEO vows to build on momentum

**CHICAGO** (AP)—McDonald’s Corp.’s second new CEO in eight months pledged Friday to keep up the fast-food giant’s momentum with more new menu items and a continued focus on restaurant improvements, adhering to a course that has reinvigorated the burger chain’s sales and stock.

Jim Skinner, speaking to the media for the first time since succeeding Charlie Bell last week, said he will carry on with existing initiatives aimed at making McDonald’s “better, not just bigger.”

“Change in leadership does not mean change in strategy,” he said on a conference call.

The 60-year-old Skinner acknowledged mixed emotions because of the circumstances that made him the seventh CEO in the company’s history—fourth in two years—at the end of a tumultuous year of personal tragedy and stellar company results.

A 33-year veteran of the company, he was vice chairman until Bell stepped down Nov. 29 because of an ongoing bout with colon cancer. Bell, 44, had been diagnosed with cancer just two weeks after succeeding Jim Cantalupo, who died of a heart attack in April after 16 months in the post.

“These are extraordinary times for McDonald’s,” Skinner said. “We began the year, and are ending it, under the most unforeseen and unfortunate of circumstances. ... Having said that, I believe the mood of the organization as we speak today is positive, it’s confident.”

Skinner said Bell returned to his native Australia this week to be with family and friends. Details of his condition are not being released.

As to his own condition, Skinner said he works out and got a clean bill of health at his annual physical exam in October. Asked how long he expects to stay in the position, he said, “I plan to be here as long as I can make a meaningful contribution.”

Unlike the situation faced by his longtime colleague Cantalupo, Skinner doesn’t need to come up with a turnaround plan on his arrival.

McDonald’s has enjoyed 18 straight months of higher comparable sales, led by a resounding U.S. recovery built on a renewed focus on restaurant operations, extended hours and the introduction of higher-priced new products such as entree-sized salads and chicken strips.

Mike Roberts, newly promoted from head of McDonald’s U.S. division to company president and chief operating officer, said the new products combined are drawing more customers as well as increasing the average check size at U.S. restaurants by 40 percent to 70 percent.

“Guest counts are up, and we believe there is no ceiling to our ability to attract more of our customers,” Roberts said.

New items next year will include fruit and walnut salads, as part of its push to introduce healthier foods, along with chicken salad sandwiches in U.S. restaurants. The next big menu addition could be Oven Selects, toasted delicatessen-style sandwiches that already have been introduced in Canada and Australia and are being test-marketed in five states.



MICROL  
+RED

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### The new rap on Jesus

**M**oral values are turning up in the strangest places these days.

Among the songs most honored in this year's Grammy nominations is a rap tribute to Jesus Christ—a catchy, beat-driven rhyme that has garnered unexpected critical and commercial success in a genre best known for its profane promotion of sex, money, drugs and lawlessness.

Music critics are hailing the author of “Jesus Walks,” songwriter and producer Kanye West, as the hottest new voice in rap and suggesting that his in-your-face embrace of religion signifies a break with tradition and the maturation of a musical form that has been narrowly defined by its outlaw culture.

Similar to what Mel Gibson experienced with his film “The Passion of the Christ,” West had a hard time convincing recording industry execs that a song about Jesus would appeal to rap fans. He spent \$1 million of his own to produce three music videos to help promote the record on TV.

But West is not the only one weaving God into hip-hop beats. Popular rap veteran Mason “Mase” Betha abandoned the music business five years ago to become a minister but returned to rap this year with thumping beats backing up G-rated lyrics. Even crooner R. Kelly—known as widely for his pending child pornography charges as his sexy hip-hop songs—has a paean to God, “U Saved Me,” on his recent album.

The artists are careful to say it's not a trend. West may walk with Jesus on one song, but the rest of his Grammy-nominated “College Dropout” album merits a “parental advisory” label for its language and references to sex and drugs. Rappers are simply laying claim to the spiritual legacy that has long infused black music with a gospel consciousness. Rapper P. Diddy explained to MTV reporters that rap is to urban youths what the old Negro spirituals were to plantation slaves—an expression of pain, frustration and quest for redemption.

Rap music has been blamed for everything from loose morals among teenage girls to the creep of thug culture in professional basketball. But its broadening appeal cannot be denied.

Twenty-five years after rap emerged as the musical creed of the inner city, it is the nation's fastest-growing musical genre. Nearly 70 percent of its sales are to white and suburban listeners. Even Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., a former presidential contender, says he enjoys listening to rappers Nelly and Eminem—for the beat, of course, not their X-rated lyrics.

The popularity of “Jesus Walks” may well reflect an unheralded, if unfocused, spirituality among the genre's fans. It resonates, West told MTV, because “I'm expressing a lot which the regular person is going through.” Its rough language isn't going to appeal to the Amy Grant crowd, but it may be a new expression for old musical roots.

(c) 2004, Los Angeles Times



### The lure of sex drugs

By MEIKA LOE  
SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

**A** Food and Drug Administration advisory board may have set back the 10 pharmaceutical companies working on drugs for female sexual dysfunction when it recommended last week that Procter & Gamble's Intrinsa testosterone patch undergo more testing before it can be sold on the open market.

But the search for the “female Viagra” is far from over. Brick by brick, we are witnessing the construction of a sexually dysfunctional populace and the heralding of sexual medicine as the solution.

For six years we have heard about erectile dysfunction and various blood-circulation tablets designed to enable erections. And we have watched as the public face of erectile dysfunction shifted dramatically from Bob Dole to much younger men, spurring expanding markets, growing pharmaceutical profits and (not often discussed) increasing male performance anxiety.

With more than a handful of female sexual dysfunction drugs awaiting FDA approval—in the form of nasal sprays, creams, gels, pills and the patch—attention is increasingly focused on the other half of the sexually dysfunctional couple.

As with Viagra, though these drugs initially are being targeted for particular populations such as women who have had ovaries surgically removed, inevitably the drugs will be used by women representing a broad spectrum of backgrounds and ages.

Sexual pharmacology is here to stay, backed by a whole new world of sexual medicine experts, clinics and conferences. Before long, you and your loved ones will be deemed sexually dysfunctional. My advice: Arm yourself now in preparation for the onslaught.

The focus on women's sexual bodies is not new, of course. For centuries Western medicine has been used to shape women into the right type of sexual being to fit the norms of the time. In the Victorian era, women were diagnosed with hysteria or nymphomania if they did not fit the asexual expectations of the time. In the 1950s, if women were not responsive to their husbands, they were considered “frigid.”

Viagra solidified new expectations for men to conform to the norms of an increasingly sexualized, quick-fix society. And now if a woman does not fit within those norms, in other words, to have regular and “healthy” levels of sexual desire, arousal and orgasmic functioning, she is said to have “female sexual dysfunction.”

In 1998, in anticipation of Viagra's debut, Pfizer's public relations teams, with the help of eager journalists, smoothed the way with new statistics, medical jargon and expert and personal testimonies. Cloaked in scientific legitimacy, Viagra became a blockbuster in sales.

Six years later, the PR game around women's sexual problems looks all too familiar, particularly in anticipation of the FDA's eventual approval of a testosterone patch or other form of treatment.

Journalists regularly cite a 43 percent statistic associated with female sexual dysfunction, use new medical jargon such as the very term “female sexual dysfunction” and “hypoactive sexual desire disorder,” introduce happy trial subjects attesting

to heightened sexual activity and profile sexual medicine experts testifying on the drug's behalf.

As you prepare yourself for phase two of the Viagra phenomenon, remember what we learned the first time. Scientific legitimacy can go a long way to sell the product, but healthy skepticism about the numbers, medical labels and expert testimonies is advised.

For example, those seemingly neutral docs who appear in the news, on the Internet or in a “medical education” meeting promoting a drug—they are likely to be affiliated with drug companies. The commonly cited statistic—that 43 percent of women have sexual dysfunction—is culled from a 1999 study conducted by sociologists who asked about dissatisfaction around a wide range of sexual concerns, not sexual dysfunction.

While a good percentage of women may complain of sexual dissatisfaction, the source of this dissatisfaction is unknown, and relational, psychological, cultural and social factors likely play into it.

Simplistic models of dysfunctional bodies obscure the social layers of an individual's life. Might the pressures associated with family, work and relationships affect one's levels of sexual desire? Sure, but in the pharmaceutical era, the prevailing wisdom is, if sexual medicine experts can locate the problem in the body, they can fix it—and make money in the process.

We rarely hear about the placebo effect. In one under-publicized clinical trial for Viagra, men taking sugar pills experienced heightened sexual arousal 40 percent of the time. Some clinical trials for women on Intrinsa show an even higher placebo effect. At Thursday's hearing one advisory board member commented on the small difference in outcomes between the placebo and Intrinsa test groups, suggesting, “maybe you could market the placebo.”

Of even more concern is something called the “nocebo” effect—the idea that exposure to treatments actually can exacerbate the problems it seeks to treat, such as sexual performance anxiety. I have come across many men in my research who report enhanced performance anxiety in the Viagra era, in contrast to what Viagra, Cialis and Levitra offer—enhanced erectile performance.

As the public learns about sexual desire disorders for women, we can bet that millions of women will begin to see themselves as dysfunctional. But what is normal? If 43 percent of women are sexually dissatisfied, isn't that a high enough percentage to redefine normal?

Finally, we have come to expect information about side-effects associated with drugs, but what about long-term effects? Procter & Gamble brought its application to the FDA, despite serious concerns that testosterone use may correlate with cancer and cardiovascular disease. Fortunately, last Thursday it was clear that the FDA advisory board was not willing to take another risk so soon after the recall of Vioxx and hormone replacement therapy drugs.

After a full day of testimony from Procter & Gamble, FDA representatives and the public, the FDA advisory board voted unanimously not to endorse the drug, largely due to safety concerns. Immediately after the decision, Procter & Gamble released a statement

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**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions by individuals, groups, or organizations. Contributions should be sent to the editor at the address below. The editor reserves the right to edit, shorten, or delete any contribution. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts. Contributions should be sent to the editor at the address below. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

## Ethics

My computer has an alert voice that comes on whenever a command that does not conform to the operating system's specifications is made, or a malfunction occurs. It begins with "It is NOT my fault" and continues to describe the machine's condition that disallows the commanded function.

At school, when a child's attention is called for talking while a lesson is being taught, the response one gets is invariably that of a finger pointing to the other person who would be blamed for starting the chat. This holds true, and more so, when trying to find out how a fight developed. The other person is always at fault. This phenomenon takes a slightly different form in the public domain, when an official is caught with a finger in the public till. Defenders are wont to explain the practice, as one that had always been tolerated in the past and the person who got the spotlight should not singularly be blamed. In our personal and social behavior, when held to account, Flip Wilson echoes our universal response: "The Devil made me do it!" As with my computer, we are used to accounting for behavior by disclaiming one's culpability, and identifying who is at fault!

A decade ago, James Q. Wilson of UCLA wrote *The Moral Sense*. With media constantly filled with images of human depravity, one would assume that human nature is selfish, greedy and cruel. Wilson argued that though common wisdom claims humankind is devoid of innate moral character, humans do in fact behave morally. There is a sense of ought-ness, that is common to everyone. *The Washington Post* hailed his work as laying a foundation for a "science of the soul."

Variations of the same theme has since occupied printed and broadcast media under titles such as *Virtues and Vices*, *Values*, *Culture Wars*, *The Soul of Politics*, *The Politics of Meaning* and others. Previously, this discourse would have been under the rubric of the investigations of Natural Law, the Divine Imperative, or the features of Historical Determinism. The business schools entered the conversation with a focus on business ethics. That moved the discussion to the level of indicative behavior.

What are ethical standards that the business community needs to abide by especially as commerce has become global and no longer captive to national politics and regional cultures? Greasing the skids of commerce from Singapore to Seoul used to mean 10-15 percent of one's business budget, a practice perceived as corruptive in some sectors, enabling in another. In Brazil in the '70s, they had professionals called facilitators who were retained by business concerns, like lawyers, but whose function was to make sure that one's paper work sailed smoothly through government bureaucracy, and whose operational processes, by machine or muscle, are concluded efficiently and effectively.

The fall of the Marcos years in the Philippines had been attributed to the fact the cost of doing business reached 25 percent just to get out of government bureaucracy. The business community that propped Martial Law for a while, just got fed up, one was told. Returning from the United States in the '70s with trunk loads of books that had to clear customs, I encountered the all-too-powerful secretary who prepared one's papers, she with the constantly open envelope drop-in drawer. The envelope determined where one's paper work is positioned in the processing sequence.

Later, when trying to get tons of Vietnamese soy bean mill out of Manila Bay for a farmers' cooperative, I failed to follow the informal protocol and paid dearly for discovering the filthy and expensive meaning of the word "demurrage." At that same period, an auditing firm reported to USAID that when 15¢ of a capital improvement project dollar reaches the final beneficiary, this was considered a success. Of late, cooking the corporate books, or opening off-shore accounts to veil incomes and expenditures of publicly traded corporations, have come to fore in legal and ethical considerations.

Early this year, members of the Council of the Humanities across the nation gathered at Aspen, Colorado for a Summit to consider the faith-based values that informs images of "human nature" Across the world, the ascendancy of political theocracies and the resurgence of stringent religious fundamentalism have pushed the question of social values to the forefront of ethical discourse. The claim that re-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Vergara is a Social Studies 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School and writes a regular column for the Saipan Tribune.



ligious values are creeping in fast in determining ethical behavior in a presumably diverse, multicultural, secular country like the United States is raising some concern in certain quarters, not because it is happening, but because the phenomenon remains unexamined.

The fact remains, however, that whether it is in the school playground, in public offices, or in the private sector, the question of what one "ought" do is a constant, practical issue. With tourism as a rapidly promoted business focus, what measures does one take to protect, preserve and properly develop the natural assets that serves as the industry's basic capital? With the cultural diversity that now characterizes the private sector workforce, what civil and human rights need to be articulated and enacted, or, if already in place, be emphasized, to ensure that imported labor and managers are not exploited as simply expendable economic peons, but are treated as human beings with, after a certain period, equal and full access to the law?

Since the Persian Zarathustra divided reality as between the forces of good and evil, humankind had been left with a choice at every moment. Accountability of choices has always been an ongoing process and constant ingredient in the fabric of every human society. Articulating the ethical standards we keep, as well as those we violate, (and it should be clear by now that it is NOT the Devil's fault), and making the discourse open, public, and dynamic, should perhaps now accompany the expression of our civic responsibility, in every workshop, seminar, forum, symposium and neighborhood chat. Let the discourse begin.

### Letter to the Editor

## Measured response for families of troops this Christmas

I wrote two weeks ago asking people to be generous this Christmas and help assist the families of our troops sent overseas to fight the war on terrorism. The response, unfortunately, has been rather measured. I like to think it's probably because times are hard and everyone, frankly, are fundraising for one cause or another. Thank you to those who came forward and gave something—no matter how small.

But most of the troops of Echo Company are coming home. And former presiding judge Edward Manibusan, Galvin Guerrero and a lot of other people are hard at work to produce and record a concert to show our brothers and sisters in arms that they are always remembered for their sacrifices and dedication.

So, the concert will happen at American Memorial Park the evening of December 23. Donations are still needed to cover the production cost of the DVDs what will be produced and sent to every service member from the NMI. Judge Manibusan in inviting everyone to the concert. Admission is free but donations will be accepted for the cost of production of the DVDs.

My personal gratitude to Juan Pan and Herman's Modern Bakery, celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> year in business and the opening of their Garapan outlet, who have generously agreed to donate care packages of locally made cookies for all of the NMI's troops—those coming home and for those who remain in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Northern Africa.

Please be generous. It is Christmas after all. Even to those who have to remain back in a foxhole in Iraq or Afghanistan, so that we can freely enjoy our time with our loved ones in the peace and spirit of the season.

**Gregorio C. Sablan**  
Garapan, Saipan

## Pat on the back for PaganWatch

This is an open letter to Cinta and Gus Kaipat, and members of PaganWatch.

Congratulations on your perseverance and tremendous victory in convincing MPLA to treat the issue of resource exploitation on Pagan with care and respect to our culture and our future. I applaud MPLA for its deep regard and reconsideration by taking into account the voices of our people, and I am confident that its decision carries the public's debt of gratitude, particularly to those who placed their reputations and personal integrities on the line during a protracted and often personalized debate over a critical public issue.

You, Gus and the entire membership of PaganWatch should be commended for prevailing over a most difficult and contentious issue, which had threatened to split our community and our elected leaders in half. Fortunately, common sense and understanding prevailed in the end, and this is good for all our people; everybody is a winner including those investors who were discouraged, for from this difficult and highly publicized debate, they too learn the

meaning of "peoples" power, and the principle and power of social mobilization of a community when the community's opinion is casually disregarded, and threatened and challenged on their own precious land. An important public precedent has been established which I trust that future investors and altruistic individuals should carefully planned for in dealing with the peoples of America's Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

We as a community should all continue to be pro-active in the running of our government and in the protection of our limited and fragile natural resources, for it is the peoples' interests that must be protected. The issue surrounding that poorly planned and premature exploitation of Pagan's natural resource has two distinct faces, and I pity the decision makers for being subjected to a most compelling and difficult responsibility. But I believe in the end, MPLA has done the right thing by listening to the voices that are willing to be counted regardless of retribution.

See PAT on Page 12

## Suggestion on Trib's weekly polls

Regarding your weekly polls, as you know the manner of asking a question can determine its answer. If a question is phrased in a "neutral" manner, you will get real opinions. However, people prefer to answer yes when the way the question is phrased suggests that yes is the best answer. The latest poll question is, "Is the MPLA's decision to have the pozzolan on Pagan Island be studied first before awarding a mining contract the proper course of action?" Of course, the "spur of the moment" answer will be "yes," because the phrasing of the question implies that no studies have been done nor information gathered, which is not the case according to the media.

A better phrasing of the same question might have been: "Do you approve of MPLA's decision to have more studies of pozzolan mining on Pagan Island before awarding a contract?" Or if you had written it this way, "Do you agree with MPLA's decision to require still more studies of pozzolan mining on Pagan Island before awarding a mining contract?" might have elicited different responses.

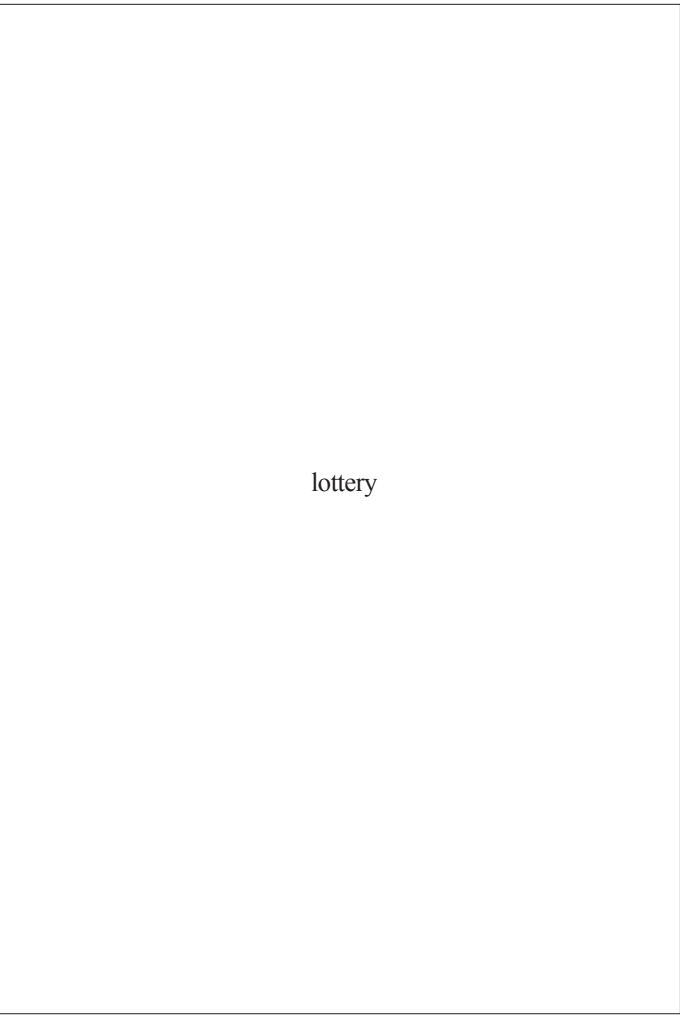
Be aware that the way questions are phrased very much deter-

mines the answers. Pollsters are most conscious of this and are careful to phrase questions in such a way that the answers will support their position.

I request that your questions be phrased in such a way that they are not "leading" or suggesting a certain response. An example would be "Do you support a bill to increase benefits to (education, the elderly, the disabled, the retirees)?" Of course the answer will be "yes." If you add on this phrase, "if it will double your taxes?" The answers may not be the same. So, please, try to make your questions "neutral."

If a question were phrased like this... "Would you favor mining pozzolan on Pagan Island if the revenue share to the CNMI government would be earmarked to fund salaries for DPS, CHC and other essential services and to pay down the government debt to the retirement fund?" This question might generate "yes" answers also. Thank you.

**Angie Sills**  
Through e-mail



lottery

PAT

From Page 11

It is my professional opinion as a geologist that Pagan’s pozzolan’s economic value has been exaggerated. Nevertheless, because the debate has reached a level where more recent investors seem to think that there is a gold mine in those commonly occurring volcanic ash and pum-

ice on Pagan, I would agree that there is even stronger basis to conduct a comprehensive resource and economic evaluation of the volcanic products, to prove one way or the other who is right. But such study must be based on scientific and technical facts, and not on hearsay or sales pitch approaches, which sometimes prevail because they are peppered with temptations

and quick fix financial solutions. We have seen these incidences happened in our islands time and again, and we must learn a lesson from them, period. There is no better and sure way for our decision makers and elected official to reach a rationale and justifiable basis to make a decision other than to let professionals in the field do an independent study to settle

the debate over the economic, and perhaps the social value of Pagan Island and its pozzolan resource.

Our people are the overall winners, but certainly not without your leadership, dedication and commitment. Congratulations.

Pete A. Tenorio

CNMI Resident Representative to the United States

THE LURE

From Page 10

saying that it would continue to pursue FDA approval for Intrinsa in the near future.

It looks like sexual medicine is here to stay. Treatments for erectile dysfunction reflect a market in the billions. And the market for a “female Viagra” is projected to be even larger.

As sexual medicine gains a foothold in our culture, sex will continue to be conflated with health. For example, a recent Pfizer Pharmaceuticals mailing to doctors and patients reports that sex equals health, youth and life itself. As a result, there is increasingly no excuse for men and women to not be sexual in America.

One happy Intrinsa trial subject

profiled this month in Forbes Magazine reports that she now has sex every day. Is this our new normal? Not after Thursday’s advisory board meeting, thank gosh.

New questions about what constitutes “normal” in the realms of sexuality, medicine, aging and gender will continue to arise. If we allow corporations to dictate what is normal, expected and ideal for Americans, that means entering

into an unending cycle of doubt and insecurity, which can only lead to financial and interpersonal bankruptcy. Instead, let us define reality for ourselves.

Loe is author of “The Rise of Viagra: How the Little Blue Pill Changed Sex in America.” She is assistant professor of sociology and women’s studies at Colgate University.



# WASC is not the federal government

The recent media story “NMC misses federal deadline” implies that the Northern Marianas College missed a deadline set by the “federal government” for updates regarding the finalization of the La Fiesta’s transfer to the CNMI government. It should be underscored that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and one of the three commissions that comprise it, i.e., the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) are “not” the federal government. Rather, the three commissions that comprise WASC [the Accrediting Commission of Schools, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, and the Senior Colleges Commission (SCC)] are all “non-governmental bodies” that are governed by boards of directors that are not an integral part of the U.S. Government.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges is a non-governmental organization comprised of several commissions that are authorized by the U.S. Department of Education (a bona fide federal agency) as a reliable agency of accreditation and must go through a periodic review process. Sometime ago, the ACCJC was recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA) through a review process. Currently, the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), a non-profit organization of colleges and universities, assumed the recognition process from CORPA in 1997. CHEA recognizes, coordinates, and periodically reviews the work of its recognized accrediting bodies and the appropriateness of existing or proposed accrediting bodies and their activities.

According to the WASC Constitution, the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities shall consist of up to 25 members, but no less than 18 members, with the exact number set by the commission from time to time. Commission members shall serve overlapping three-year terms, with a maximum

of two terms (plus any partial term served as the result of the member being selected to fill a vacancy), as established by the commission. The commission shall elect one of its members to serve a chair for a three-year term and one of its members to serve as vice chair for a one-year term. In the event the chair has served for the maximum two terms on the commission prior to the expiration of his or her terms as chair, the chair shall continue to serve on the commission until his or her term as chair shall have expired. Commission members shall be elected by the presidents of the institutions accredited by the commission according to bylaws approved by the commission.

With respect to the ACCJC, the commission shall consist of nineteen members, all of whom are appointed by the commissioner selection committee. One commission member shall be selected from among the nominees who represent community college interests provided by the chief administrative officer of each of the following: the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office and the University of Hawaii Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office. In addition, one commission member shall be selected from among the nominees provided by each of the other commissions to represent the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities and the Accrediting Commission for Schools. These nominees shall be sitting or former members of the Senior College or Schools commissions, or individuals with demonstrated familiarity with the policies, procedures, and operations of the ACCJC. At least five of the commission members shall be faculty, at least five shall be administrators, at least one member shall represent independent institutions, and at least one member shall represent institutions in the Western Pacific. cCommission representatives shall serve staggered three year terms.

The commissions that com-

prise WASC evaluate educational institutions and ascertain if they in fact meet or exceed stated criteria of educational quality. Educational institutions that are evaluated by the various commissions “voluntarily” seek accreditation and are not compelled to be “accredited” by the non-governmental bodies that make up WASC.

Accreditation assures the quality of the institution and to assist in the improvement of the institution. Moreover, accreditation certifies to the general public that the institution has appropriate purposes, resources needed to accomplish its purposes and can demonstrate that it is accomplishing its purposes and gives reason

to believe it will continue to accomplish its purposes.

When an educational institution possesses accreditation from the commissions that comprise WASC, they are eligible to participate in the Title IX student financial aid programs. In addition, it provides in the process of periodic self and peer review, which play a significant role in the area of institutional effectiveness.

Another reason why accreditation is considered vitally important stems from the fact many institutions recognize transfer credits from regionally accredited institutions simply because each institution is responsible for determining its own policies and

practices in regard to transfer and award of credit. The commission requires that institutions have an established policy on transfer of credit by which the institution certifies that credits accepted achieve educational objectives comparable to its own courses.

Should NMC lose its accreditation with the ACCJC and/or SCC of WASC, then there will be problems regarding the securing of federal financial aid for students, as well as allowing the successful transfer of credits to other educational institutions for students who wish to pursue a baccalaureate and/or graduate degrees. Clearly, if NMC is not in good stead with the ACCJC and/or SCC, then they would

not be in good stead with the federal government to qualify for financial aid to students and other accredited institutions of higher education who are willing to give students an opportunity to pursue a four-year or graduate degree.

The lost of accreditation for NMC will hurt the stability of the future for the CNMI simply because it will take away the precious opportunity for the students in the island community to better themselves and be in a position to give something back subsequent to acquiring formal and very valuable education.

**Dr. Jesus D. Camacho**  
*Delano, California*

SAIPANCELL  
CMYK

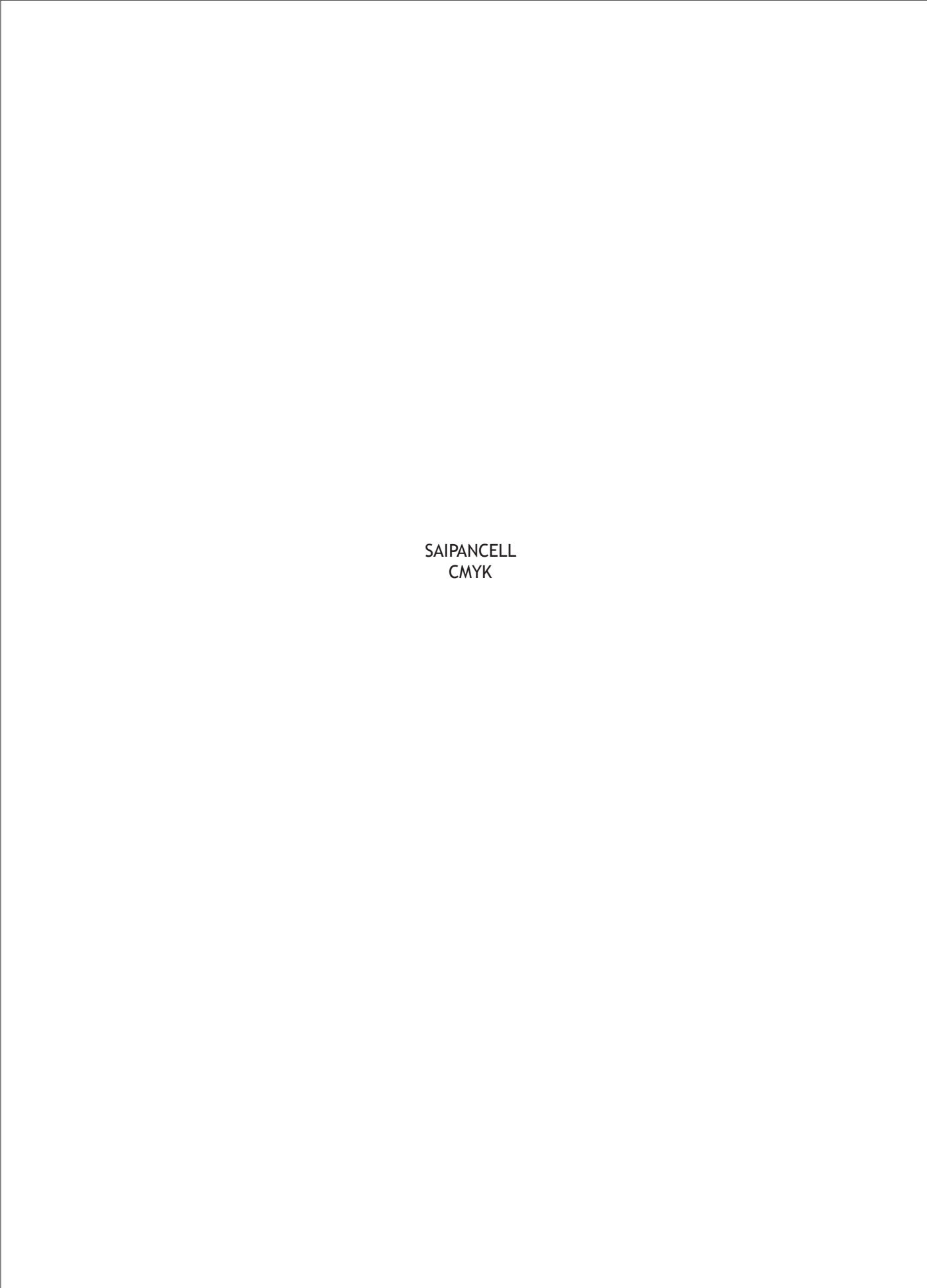
# Male-only predators to fight Kagman rats

I just read the article about rat infestation and I thought of a simple and logical idea. How about bringing in an animal that would hunt the rats down? But only bring in the male animals. This would solve a potential problem about breeding and the animal’s population getting

out of hand. If there were only males, they would hunt, eat, get old, and well...die. Whether this idea is really logical or not, I just wanted to help out my home.

**Woong Choi**  
*Hawaii*

# Nation



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# Asia

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# World



Palestinian representative to the United Nations and nephew of Yasser Arafat, Nasser Al-Kidwa, right, hands the late-Palestinian leader's medical records to caretaker President of the Palestinian Authority Rauhi Fattouh at Arafat's former headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah, Saturday Dec. 11, 2004. AP



## Nephew suggests Yasser Arafat's death unnatural

**RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)**—Yasser Arafat's nephew said Saturday his uncle may have died an "unnatural" death, a statement certain to renew speculation among Palestinians and in the rest of the Arab world where many already believe the late leader was poisoned despite Israel's repeated and vehement denials.

Nasser al-Kidwa, who is also Palestinian envoy to the United Nations, made the comments after he handed over the 558-page medical dossier to Palestinian officials in Ramallah. No diagnosis or reason has been given for Arafat's death on Nov. 11 at a French hospital.

Al-Kidwa's remarks could cause fresh tension between Israel and the Palestinians at a time when it appeared relations were improving. By providing fuel for rumors that Arafat was poisoned, his comments could also make it more difficult for a new Palestinian leadership to

take control after presidential elections on Jan. 9.

But a decision on Saturday by Israel's dovish Labor Party to join Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government could pave the way for him to implement his Gaza withdrawal plan and restart peace talks with the Palestinians.

After handing the 558-page medical dossier to interim Palestinian President Rauhi Fattouh, Al-Kidwa said French doctors could not rule out poisoning, but had not found traces in Arafat's body of "any poison known to them."

"Examinations of X-rays and all imaginable tests ... are still with the same results, the inability of reaching a clear diagnosis," Al-Kidwa said in English during a news conference.

"That is precisely the reason why suspicions are there, because without a reason you cannot escape the other possibility ... that there is unnatural cause for the death," he said.

## Doctors: Yushchenko poisoned with dioxin

**VIENNA, Austria (AP)**—Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned with dioxin, doctors said Saturday, adding that the highly toxic chemical could have been put in the opposition leader's soup, producing the severe disfigurement and partial paralysis of his face.

Yushchenko was in satisfactory condition and was expected to be released from Vienna's private Rudolfinerhaus clinic Sunday or Monday to return to the campaign trail in Ukraine, said hospital director Dr. Michael Zimpfer.

Yushchenko, who faces Viktor Yanukovich in a rerun of a disputed presidential runoff on Dec. 26, has claimed that he was poisoned by Ukrainian authorities, who deny the charges. His supporters at home expressed little surprise over the doctors' conclusion.

"Everybody knew he was poisoned so we didn't really need official tests," said Anatoly Klotchyk, 19, standing in the sleet outside his tent near Kiev's Independence Square, where supporters have conducted a



The picture combo shows Viktor Yushchenko in file photos dated March 28, 2002, left, and Dec. 6, 2004, right. AP

blockaded of government buildings since the dispute flared, grabbing international attention after the runoff last month.

Campaigners for his opponent, Viktor Yanukovich, meanwhile, again rejected suggestions that the prime minister was involved in the poisoning.

There is "no logic in such an accusation," said Taras Chornovyl, Yanukovich's campaign manager.

Yanukovich was declared the winner of the Nov. 21

presidential runoff, but the results were annulled by the Ukrainian Supreme Court, which cited massive fraud and ordered a new vote.

Yushchenko fell ill in early September and had been treated at the Vienna clinic twice before. But it was the tests run since he checked in Friday night that provided conclusive evidence of the poisoning, Zimpfer said.

The 50-year-old politician also has suffered from back pain and acute pancreatitis.

"There is no doubt about the fact that Mr. Yushchenko's disease—especially following the results of the blood work—has been caused by a case of poisoning by dioxin," Zimpfer said.

"We suspect involvement of an external party, but we cannot answer as to who cooked what or who was with him while he ate," Zimpfer said, adding that tests showed the dioxin was taken orally.

Zimpfer said Yushchenko's blood and tissue registered concentrations of dioxin—one of the most toxic chemicals—that were 1,000 times above normal levels.

"It would be quite easy to administer this amount in a soup," Zimpfer said.

The substance containing the dioxin would most likely have been consumed the day Yushchenko fell ill, as dioxin is rapidly absorbed, Zimpfer said.

"This substance led to quite a significant increase in the (dioxin) level within just a few hours and this intake then led to the quite devastating effects that we have seen," he said. "The substance started to wreak havoc in the body."

## Aid worker believed killed in Iraq honored

**LONDON (AP)**—Family and friends gathered at Westminster Cathedral Saturday to remember Margaret Hassan, a respected aid worker abducted and believed murdered in Iraq.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, leader of Britain's 5 million Roman Catholics, celebrated the requiem Mass for a "gentle, private, brave, loving and compas-

sionate" woman he called a martyr.

"I use the word advisedly, because the word martyr means witness," he said. "Margaret witnessed, in both her life and her death, to the act of loving."

A portrait of Hassan, who was kidnapped in October and whose body has not been found, was placed by the altar instead of a coffin. More than 2,000 mourners

joined in hymns and prayers for Irish-born Hassan, who also held British nationality and had lived in Iraq for 30 years.

In a statement, Hassan's sisters and brother said they had been "overwhelmed" by the messages of sympathy received from around the world since a video purporting to show her death surfaced last month.

Hassan's Iraqi husband, Tahseen Ali Hassan, had been too ill to travel to Britain for the service, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Family friend Patrick O'Ryan-Roeder, who delivered a tribute to Hassan at the service, remembered her as "a much-loved wife, a much-loved sister, a much-loved aunt."

## US expedites armored humvees for troops

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)**—U.S. military commanders in Iraq, where bombings pose the deadliest threat to their soldiers, have welcomed news the Pentagon wants to speed up production of upgraded armored Humvees, a military spokesman said Saturday.

The issue of whether the military is providing enough protection for its troops received new attention this week after an Iraq-bound National Guardsman questioned Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld during a visit to neighboring Kuwait on why he and his comrades must scrounge through scrap piles for metal to protect their vehicles.

The Army said Friday it was negotiating with an armor manufacturer, Florida-based Armor Holdings Inc., to accelerate production of upgraded M1114, or Level 1, Humvees. The company said it could boost monthly production from the current 450 vehicles to 550 in February or March.

"Commanders are looking for any opportunity to increase force protection for the sake of their troops," said Maj. Neal O'Brien, spokesman for the Tikrit-based 1st Infantry Division. "Uparmor or add-on armor will always be one of those force protection assets they want more of."

CUC MEET

NMC PROC



# Insurgents try to derail election date

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)**—Insurgents pressed their attack on U.S. troops and Iraq's security forces Saturday, killing five Iraqi police officers and wounding 14 American soldiers in a relentless effort to derail next month's elections. A U.S. Marine also was killed in the province containing the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

However, Iraqi officials maintain that vote preparations are on schedule.

The Marine was killed in action Saturday in the volatile western Anbar province, the military said. The Marine, assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, was killed "while conducting security and stabilization operations" in Anbar, a military statement said.

No further details were immediately available. Anbar contains the battleground cities of Ramadi and Fallujah.

The Marine's identity was not released. As of Saturday, at least 1,287 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The 14 Americans were wounded in separate attacks in northern Iraq. One car bombing and ambush wounded eight soldiers, prompting an American warplane to drop a 500-pound bomb on an insurgent position in Mosul.

"The commanders on the



A firefighter hoses what is left of a car bomb that exploded as a U.S. military convoy passed by Saturday Dec. 11, 2004, in the northern city of Mosul, Iraq, wounding no American forces, the military said.

ground felt the attack was heavy enough to call in close air support," military spokeswoman Capt. Angela Bowman said.

Violence continues to grip the Sunni-dominated areas in central Iraq despite last month's U.S.-led assault on the main insurgent stronghold of Fallujah and on an area south of Baghdad. That attack was launched to try to curb the insurgency so parliamentary elections could be held nationwide Jan. 30.

The latest attacks appear to be part of a sweeping intimidation

campaign aimed at foiling those elections, in part by killing Iraqis who cooperate with the United States, making them collaborators in the eyes of insurgents.

Police Col. Najeeb al-Joubouri was gunned down on his way to work on a road outside Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad.

Two more police commanders were shot and killed in Baghdad's southwestern Saidiyah neighborhood in an early-morning ambush. A senior Interior Ministry official identified the victims as Brig.

Gen. Razzaq Karim Mahmood and Col. Karim Farhan.

Gunmen ambushed a police patrol in Baghdad's northern suburb of Azamiyah late Friday, killing a captain and a constable and wounding two others, police Lt. Mohammed al-Obeidi said.

The guerrillas regard the elections as an effort to legitimize a puppet government that will serve U.S. interests.

Iraq's government says the vote will go ahead as scheduled, and preparations continued Saturday, with election officials

saying candidates from 70 political parties and coalitions have filed so far. The filing deadline is Dec. 15.

In other violence, gunmen shot and killed a Shiite cleric, Salim al-Yaqoubi, near his home in Baghdad, police said.

A second Shiite cleric, Sheikh Ammar al-Joubouri, was slain Friday near Mahmoudiya, about 25 miles south of Baghdad, while driving to the capital. Al-Joubouri once headed a religious court of followers of anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in the southern holy city of Najaf.

In northern Iraq, a suspected suicide car bomber wounded two U.S. soldiers in Beiji, while two more were wounded in a car bomb blast near Kirkuk, about 60 miles to the north.

Two more U.S. soldiers were wounded by a roadside bomb outside Hawija, near Kirkuk.

A military spokesman said Saturday that U.S. commanders welcomed news that the Pentagon intended to speed up production of armored Humvees.

The issue of whether the military was providing enough protection for its troops received new attention this week after an Iraq-bound National Guardsman questioned Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in neighboring Kuwait on why he and his comrades must comb through scrap piles for metal to protect their vehicles.

## Negotiators open Darfur peace talks

**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)**—Negotiators from groups battling in Sudan's Darfur region opened their latest round of peace talks on Saturday, with African mediators imploring the government and rebels to resolve their differences through talks.

Peace negotiations have failed to stop nearly two years of fighting in Sudan's western region that has killed tens of thousands and left nearly 2 million homeless.

African Union officials have said that attacks continued this week.

"War will not resolve the problems of Darfur," Sam Ibok, a top mediator of African Union, told delegates. "It's not just a military problem, it's a problem that can be resolved by political means."

Representatives from Darfur's two main rebel groups and Sudan's government are attending the talks, which were promptly adjourned Saturday and expected to continue Sunday.

Early work will focus on reviewing past interim agreements, with power and wealth sharing and disarmament among the final goals for peace, said Ibok.

An earlier round of talks in November produced accords on humanitarian access to the estimated 1.8 million war-displaced in Darfur and in neighboring Chad, bringing new pledges of an end to hostilities.

Fighting restarted almost immediately after the Nov. 9 accords signed in Abuja and aid groups accused the Sudanese air force of bombing towns. The government denied this and the United Nations said it could not confirm the airstrikes.

Rebel delegates said Saturday government air strikes would hinder the talks.

"According to the agreements we've signed, the government should refrain from military overflights in Darfur, but in the past two weeks we've been under constant bombardment and this will affect the talks," said Mohammed Tugod Lissan, of the Justice and Equality Movement.

Disease and famine have killed 70,000 in Darfur since March, the World Health Organization says. There is no official reckoning of the overall toll of the war, which sparked in February 2003 when two non-Arab African rebel groups took up arms to fight for more power and resources.

The Sudanese government responded by backing a militia known as the Janjaweed, which are now accused of targeting civilians in a campaign of murder, rape and arson.

Nigeria is the current head of the 52-nation African Union.

A promised 3,000-member African Union peace deployment for Darfur has managed to put only about 800 soldiers and 100 observers in the field. The United Nations calls the situation in Darfur the world's gravest humanitarian crisis.

## Accused Taliban fighter gets hearing

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**—A 28-year-old Iraqi man accused of fighting for the ousted Taliban regime five years ago appeared Saturday before a military review tribunal in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an official said.

The military accused the prisoner of fighting against the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance in 1999, said Navy Lt. Gary Ross, spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals. His identity was not released.

The military did not say whether the detainee was still fighting for the Taliban when the United States declared hostilities against Afghanistan following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Some 550 detainees are held at Guantanamo as "enemy combatants." That classification—which includes anyone who supported the Taliban, al-Qaida or other forces engaged in hostilities against the United States—affords fewer legal protections than the Geneva Conventions accord to prisoners of war.

Defense attorneys have argued against holding detainees as enemy combatants for actions they took before Washington declared hostilities.

Ross said the Northern Alliance held the prisoner before

transferring him to U.S. custody, but it was not clear when he was first captured.

The military did not provide details on what the prisoner, who allegedly trained in the Iraqi army, said at his hearing. More than a month after a Freedom of Information Act request by The Associated Press, the military has not provided the transcripts of testimony given by prisoners at the tribunals.

Journalists are not allowed to stay on the U.S. naval base to cover all the tribunals. At hearings attended by the media, many prisoners have denied allegations against them.

The hearings began shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the 550 detainees at Guantanamo had the right to challenge their incarcerations in U.S. courts. They are meant to decide whether the prisoners have been properly classified as enemy combatants or should be freed.

Detainees are not allowed to have attorneys present at the hearings and are only told unclassified portions of the allegations against them.

The tribunals have considered 486 cases so far. One Pakistani prisoner has been freed, while 193 other prisoners have been ordered to remain in detention.

## Islamic countries commit to reforms

**RABAT, Morocco (AP)**—Officials from more than 20 Islamic countries said Saturday that political, economic and social reforms must go hand in hand with steps toward settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The commitment to reforms came during a four-hour meeting that included those Muslim nations, industrialized democracies, the Arab League and other groups.

The United States, a driving force behind the conference, sees the changes as a way to make these societies less of a breeding ground for political extremism.

At a news conference after the discussions, Secretary of State Colin Powell said he was not disappointed that the Muslim delegates insisted on linking internal reforms to the Mideast dispute.

"We're not starting reform or holding up reform. It's ongoing," Powell said. "Reform has to go on. A child needs an education now."

Much of the discussion, conducted mostly in private, focused on raising the low literacy rates in the region and on ways to provide equal treatment for women.

Economic development also was on the agenda. Treasury Secretary John Snow said the region's unemployment rate is about 50 percent.

"The best development program is a job," Snow told reporters.



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, right, talks with Morocco's Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Ben Aissa, left, during their meeting at the Foreign Ministry, in Rabat, Morocco, Saturday.

"And a job comes from growth."

The Arab-Israeli dispute was a recurring theme with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal saying the "real bone of contention" for Muslims is "the Western bias toward Israel."

A statement issued at the conclusion of the conference said the participants "reaffirmed that their support for reform in the region will go hand-in-hand with their support for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The statement said the settlement should be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions, which include a call that Israel withdraw from occupied territories.

En route to Morocco on Friday night, Powell said that

reform in that the Middle East conflict should not impede reform in the Islamic world.

"We can't keep pointing to the Middle East peace process as the reason we don't undertake reform efforts that are needed by these nations and as these nations have identified for themselves," Powell said.

Muslim countries "know that they can't wait for that solution to occur and not move forward," he said.

In his opening remarks to the forum, Powell said, "Ours is a long-term task requiring a long-term commitment, extending generations. This far-reaching effort starts here and now. It's a challenge that must be confronted by all of us working together."



Life & Style



AP  
This undated photo supplied by CBS, shows ELiza Orlins, left, Chris Daugherty, Twila Tanner, second from right and Scout Cloud Lee, right, during the fourteenth episode of CBS' "Survivor: Vanuatu — Islands of Fire."

‘Survivor’ contestant Julie Berry voted off

NEW YORK (AP)—There are four people left on CBS' "Survivor: Vanuatu—Islands of Fire," and Julie Berry isn't one of them.

The 23-year-old trucker hat-wearing youth mentor was the 14th person voted out of the game after attempting to sway lone male player Chris Daugherty to abandon his previous alliance and cast his vote against Twila Tanner.

On Thursday's episode, Daugherty told Berry, "What I'm comparing this to is my friendship with you." But that friendship, which Berry said was mostly left on the cutting room floor, didn't amount to his vote.

"It's worthless to talk about now," Berry told The Associated Press Friday. "He was like my big brother. He annoyed me, but I got along really well with him. You truly connect with people. I considered our friendship to

be unique and strong, but, in comparison, it wasn't as important as a million dollars."

The jury will chose the \$1 million winner during a live two-hour finale Sunday.

Berry describes her time on Vanuatu as "spicy" and "sexual in a way." Her antics included going nude on the beach, snuggling with tribe mates and coaxing Tanner and 40-year-old drill sergeant Lea "Sarge" Masters to sunbathe in the buff, which she said was easy to do because they were both "itching for some fun."

Besides Tanner and Daugherty, the other "Survivor" finalists are Eliza Orlins and Scout Cloud Lee, whom Berry doesn't think deserve their "final four" slots.

"Eliza got (to the final four) as people's pawns, not as a prominent player," Berry told the AP. "Scout is strictly there because she can't do anything."

Wyclef Jean launches Haitian aid effort

NEW YORK (AP)—Wyclef Jean has launched a nonpolitical humanitarian effort to help rebuild his native Haiti—and he's not "calling bluff."

Yele Haiti seeks to use music and community development as an outreach to the Caribbean country's youth. The organization plans to help rebuild schools in slum areas and hold a free concert in Haiti in the spring.

Jean launched Yele Haiti with a concert Thursday night. Among those on the arrivals line were Susan Sarandon, a member of a task force that is assisting the former Fugees rapper, and her partner, Tim Robbins.

"The objective of Yele Haiti is to restore pride and a reason to hope, and for the whole country to regain the deep spirit and strength that is part of our heritage," Jean says on the Yele Haiti Web site.

His 1997 solo hit, "We Trying to Stay Alive," reworked the



AP  
In this photo supplied by the Yele Haiti Foundation, Grammy award winning artist Wyclef Jean plays guitar during a concert in New York, Thursday, December 9, 2004, where he announced the formation of his foundation, Yele Haiti.

Bee Gees disco classic into an anthem of Haitian slums.

Too much jibber-jabber; not enough gafflin

*Ocean's Twelve* isn't a terrible movie. It just isn't particularly good, either. *Ocean's Eleven* (2001) is a fun movie for two reasons. First, it has obvious star-power, with George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Julia Roberts, Bernie Mac, etc. They don't so much act, as they do goof off, and somehow it works. More important, however, is the fact that *Ocean's Eleven* is a good caper movie. The big Vegas heist takes center stage, and all the clever details of how it is pulled off are shown, with a good deal of suspense to make it worthwhile.

*Ocean's Twelve*, the inevitable sequel, only has half of what makes *Eleven* so good. The stars are all back, and there are two new ones (Catherine Zeta-Jones, and a cameo I shouldn't spoil), and as before, they're pretty much just clowning around with each other. That's all fine and dandy, but the caper movie is gone. The one big heist is replaced with a myriad of smaller ones; none of them are exciting to watch, or even slightly suspenseful. I don't know about you, but the reason I go to a caper movie is to see the caper, so by the end of *Ocean's Twelve*, I felt like I was the one who got robbed.

Set three years after *Ocean's Eleven*, *Ocean's Twelve* reintroduces us to the gang of thieves, as casino-owner Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia) tracks down each one of them to collect on the money they stole from him in the first movie. With only two weeks to repay their debt, before Benedict brings down the



hatchet on them, the crew reassembles to pull off a couple jobs to make up for what they've spent over the last few years. This takes them to Europe, where they have to evade an Interpol agent (Jones) on their trail, and where they meet rival thief "Night Fox" (French actor Vincent Cassell), a break-dancing Frenchie with a monstrous ego, who's extravagance seems to be com-

pensation for something that might be smaller than average.

That synopsis I just gave you is just the set-up. From there, the plot goes here and there, this way and that, racing all over the place like a chicken with its head cut off. Every 10 minutes there's a new twist, so by the time fat lady sings, the story becomes so convoluted that I really couldn't follow it. It isn't



By JOE WEINDL  
Special to the  
Saipan Tribune

that I'm not capable of following a complex plot; it's just that if it's not interesting, I don't care to. Screenwriter George Nolfi seems to have forgotten that this was supposed to be a popcorn movie, and popcorn movies aren't supposed to require any brain activity. I wonder—whose couch did Nolfi have to sleep on to get a job as high-profile as this one? Prior to *Ocean's Twelve*, his only writing credit was for *Timeline*, and that movie SUCKS.

If you read the reviews of other critics, you might be led to believe that *Ocean's Twelve* is a hilarious comedy. Don't be fooled. The only reason other critics like *Ocean's Twelve* is because it's filled with a lot of self-referential humor, and Hollywood in-jokes. Great. So everybody working in or around Hollywood laughs at themselves, while the rest of the world just stares at all the pretty people on screen, wondering what must be so funny.

That's not to say *Ocean's Twelve* doesn't have its moments. There are a few good ones, but not enough to make the movie worth more than a \$3 DVD rental, and the few fleeting good scenes that do exist have been surrounded by a bunch of boring, uninteresting blah, blah, blah. Watching *Ocean's Twelve* is how I imagine it must've felt for the Pre-Algebra students at Saipan Southern High School over the last couple years. Ha ha! Teacher made a funny. He said "Pwell"! Oh, but now I have to convert fractions to decimals. *Bastai*.

Angie Sills  
Through e-mail



## Bad blood between guests jeopardizes holiday cheer

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm throwing a holiday party. About six weeks ago, I told my friend "Shirley" about the party and that I was inviting her ex-fiance, "Tom." She replied that if Tom would be there, she would not.

I sent invitations to both of them. Tom RSVP'd that he and his new girlfriend (the one that came between him and Shirley) would attend. I then informed Shirley that "you know who" was coming. She is now very upset with me and accuses me of choosing him over her. She's questioning my friendship and says I'm purposely tormenting her.

I understand Shirley is upset. But don't you agree that she needs to understand my position? My husband is close friends with Tom, and wants him to attend. Shirley knew I was inviting him. Now, less than a week before party time, she has called me five times to cry and make me feel bad. I want everyone to enjoy the party, but there's bad blood between those two and I'm afraid no one will enjoy anything if they're in the same room.

TORN IN TWO IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**DEAR TORN IN TWO:** Shirley should not dictate who's to be invited to and/or excluded from your party. Remind her what she said when you first told her that both she and her ex would be invited. Your husband has a right to include anyone he wishes. Tell Shirley that you'd love to have her there, but if it's too painful for her to see Tom and his new love interest, you'll invite her to another soiree. The choice is hers.

**DEAR ABBY:** I was recently engaged to "Danny," the man of my dreams. He is everything I have prayed for all my life. The problem is his mother. She constantly barges into our relationship. She was even there when he proposed to me—so close I could hear her crying.

Because Danny is in the military, our time together is limited. I have been planning a trip to visit him for an awards ceremony. It was booked and paid for three months ago. This will be the first time we have been alone together since we got engaged.

I just learned that Danny's mother plans to "surprise" him by attending the awards ceremony and staying all weekend. Once again, there she is. I understand that she wants to support her son, but is this the way my marriage is going to be?—her always wanting to share in the moment?

SURROUNDED BY HIS MOTHER

**DEAR SURROUNDED:** Danny may be "your man," but he is also her little boy. This is the way your marriage will be, until the two of you are able to loosen the apron strings. Perhaps his mother wouldn't hover so much if her son wasn't in the military and therefore in jeopardy.

Please cut her some slack. Also, how Danny reacts to his mother's surprise visit should give you insight into what lies ahead for you.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 13 and in seventh grade and I have a big problem. I don't know my multiplication tables. I'm afraid if I tell my teacher, she'll get mad. What should I do?

AFRAID IN COACHELLA, CALIF.

**DEAR AFRAID:** Tell your teacher NOW, before you fall further behind. Explain that you need extra drilling, and that you sincerely want to master the problem. The squeaky wheel gets the grease—and your teacher won't be angry.

Teachers are there to help you learn, including extra help when you have difficulty with a subject.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

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*Dear Abby*

# Pepper captures Earnhardt in biopic '3'

By JENNA FRYER  
AP SPORTS WRITER

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—**While portraying Roger Maris, actor Barry Pepper learned the importance of capturing the character. Anything short of authentic doesn't sit very well with fans.

So when it came to portraying the late Dale Earnhardt, perhaps the most revered man in NASCAR history, Pepper knew he had his work cut out for him.

"(Earnhardt) is an American legend, and that is always thin ice" Pepper said. "And the similarities between Earnhardt and Maris ... they had extraordinary fan bases. You knew you were dealing with a very fervent opinion of who the man was, so if you strayed too far from that or didn't do your homework, you were going to hear about it."

Pepper, who earned an Emmy nomination for his portrayal of Maris in "61," plays Earnhardt from ages 16 to 49 in the ESPN biopic "3" that debuts Saturday night.

It didn't take Pepper long to realize the NASCAR nation of Earnhardt fans would not tolerate a hokey racing movie about the man known as "The Intimidator."

The racing community largely has rejected most movies about the sport as exaggerations and unrealistic, including the commercially successful Tom



Actor Barry Pepper, who stars as the late auto racing legend Dale Earnhardt in ESPN's film "3," named after the logo on Earnhardt's car, appears in this undated promotional photo.

Cruise film "Days of Thunder."

So when Pepper arrived in North Carolina, where filming took place in the Charlotte area and Earnhardt's hometown of Kannapolis, fans made it clear they wanted Pepper to get it right.

"People came up to me with all these stories, 'I went to

school with him, I worked at the mill with him,'" said Pepper, who was also a co-executive producer. "I'm sure it drove (director) Russell (Mulcahy) crazy, but I'd come up to him and say, 'You know what, I just talked to this guy who lived down the street from Dale ...'"

## Report: Oprah to develop talk shows

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Oprah Winfrey will develop talk shows for television syndicator King World, a trade magazine reported.

Details of the agreement were not announced but her first effort is expected in 2006, Broadcasting & Cable magazine said in the coming week's edition.

Only one of King World's last five talk shows was a hit: "Dr. Phil," which was created by Winfrey's Harpo Productions. Host Phil McGraw was a regular on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

"The person who develops the next hit will probably be Oprah Winfrey," King World Chief Executive Officer Roger King told the trade publication.

Among the company's misses: Late 1990s talk shows with Roseanne Barr and Martin Short and the recently canceled "Living It Up!" with Jack Ford



Oprah Winfrey listens to a question from the media during a press conference Saturday Dec. 11, 2004, in Oslo, Norway.

and Alexandra Wentworth.

Winfrey reportedly will work on King World's talk show de-

velopment with Ellen Rakieten, executive producer of "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

## Willis offers to donate land for airport

**HAILEY, Idaho (AP)—**Bruce Willis stole the show at the Friedman Airport Authority meeting this week, offering to donate a portion of land he owns at the eastern end of Camas County in Idaho to help build a new airport.

Willis' property along Highway 20 is part of one of three sites being considered. The

offer was unexpected, airport authority Chairwoman Mary Ann Mix said.

The actor, whose screen credits include the "Die Hard" movies, "Pulp Fiction" and "The Sixth Sense," pitched his plan at a meeting Tuesday.

Mix said the room erupted in applause when Willis announced his intended dona-

tion, saying he was concerned with the safety conditions at the present airport.

"Bruce is a fabulously decent man—always very concerned about what's good for his community," Mix said.

Willis owns part of the proposed site on the Camas Prairie, she said, though it wasn't clear exactly what he was offering.

It wasn't easy work for Pepper, a NASCAR outsider.

"I was taken to school from the moment I got there," he said.

After attending his first race, he was hooked. Then he went to driving school to learn how to do the race scenes. And he spent hours each day being transformed into Earnhardt with the help of Stefan Dupuis, an Oscar-winning makeup artist.

Aided by facial prosthetics and hairpieces, Pepper bears a striking resemblance to Earnhardt in a movie focused on telling the story of the son of a mill worker who grew up to become one of the greatest racers.

"We never planned on going any other way than the personal story because so much of the commercialization of Dale is out there," said ESPN's Mark Shapiro. "It isn't just legend, it is very tangible, and we really wanted to get underneath to the man behind the legend—what drove him, where did he come from and how long was his road to get there."

The first half of the movie shows Earnhardt trying to please his father, Ralph, who quit his job in a Kannapolis textile mill to chase his own racing dream.

Young Dale is determined to follow in his father's footsteps, quitting school and his job at his mill, and ruining two marriages because of his commitment to racing.

## Report: Jackson prints found on porn mags

**SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—**Fingerprints belonging to both Michael Jackson and the boy accusing him of child molestation were found on pornographic magazines seized from Jackson's Neverland ranch last year, the Santa Barbara News-Press reported Saturday, citing sources it did not identify.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Chris Pappas did not immediately return a call Saturday from The Associated Press. Jackson's attorney, Thomas Mesereau Jr., declined to comment.

The prosecution and defense are prohibited by a court-imposed gag order from discussing the case.

If the reported evidence is admitted during Jackson's trial, prosecutors would be expected to argue that the fingerprints were proof that Jackson showed the boy pornographic literature before molesting him. But the defense could question whether the entertainer knew the boy had been leafing through the magazines.

According to the newspaper, the boy and his brother often visited Neverland when Jackson wasn't home.

The newspaper did not describe the magazines' contents except to say they contained pornography.







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# Pastimes

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# USC's Matt Leinart wins Heisman trophy

**NEW YORK** (AP) — Matt Leinart replaced a Heisman Trophy winner and became one himself. The Southern California quarterback won college football's most prestigious individual award Saturday night, beating out Oklahoma teammates Adrian Peterson and Jason White, last year's winner.

In 2002, Carson Palmer won the Heisman as a senior with the Trojans. Leinart succeeded the first overall pick in the NFL draft with a splendid sophomore season that set him up as the preseason favorite this year.

Leinart has delivered, throwing for 2,990 yards and 28 TDs and leading the top-ranked Trojans to a 12-0 regular season.

"I remember when Carson was sitting up here," Leinart said. "He said his heart was beating out of his chest, I think mine's about to do the same thing."

The junior is USC's sixth Heisman winner, tying the Trojans with Ohio State for second-most behind Notre Dame's seven.

Peterson, the freshman tailback, was second, White was third, Utah quarterback Alex Smith was fourth and Leinart's teammate Reggie Bush was fifth in the voting.

Leinart and Bush will compete against Peterson and White again on Jan. 4 in the Orange Bowl. The winner of that contest takes home the national title. It'll be the first time two players with Heisman trophies have played each other in college.

"I know they're going to be coming after me," Leinart said of the Sooners.

Leinart received 1,325 points and won all but one of the six voting regions. He came in third in the Southwest, where White led with 263 points and Peterson was second with 197.

Peterson received 997 overall points, edging out White (957) for second. Peterson's second-place finish is the best by a freshman. Georgia's Herschel Walker had the previous freshman best when he was third to winner George Rogers of South Carolina in 1980. Michael Vick was a redshirt

freshman at Virginia Tech when he was third in 1999.

White had a chance to become just the second two-time Heisman winner, joining Ohio State tailback Archie Griffin (1974 and '75).

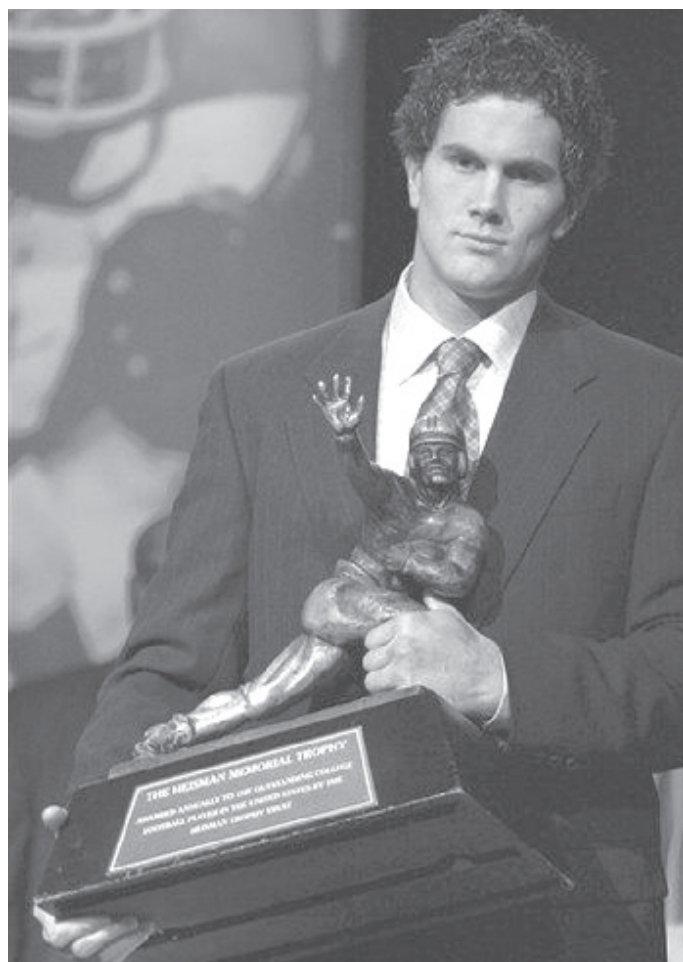
Smith, who has led Utah to a berth in the Bowl Championship Series, received 635 points, and Bush, the Trojans' explosive and versatile tailback had 597.

Leinart had never thrown a pass at USC when he won a four-way battle to replace Palmer in 2003.

The left-hander practically matched Palmer's Heisman numbers in his first season as a starter, throwing for 3,556 yards and 38 TDs while leading the Trojans to a share of the national title. He finished sixth in last year's Heisman balloting.

While Bush has provided a slew of dazzling plays for USC, the laid-back Leinart is the Trojans' leader.

Breaking in a new set of receivers and playing behind a rebuilt offensive line, Leinart has completed 66 percent of his



USC's Matt Leinart picks up the Heisman trophy after being announced as the winner Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, in New York. AP

passes with just six interceptions this season.

The Trojans are 24-1 with Leinart as a starter and have won 21 straight games.

USC's first four Heisman winners were running backs, starting with Mike Garrett in 1965 and ending with Marcus Allen in 1981.

But Tailback U. has turned into Quarterback College since offensive coordinator Norm Chow arrived with coach Pete Carroll in 2001.

Chow turned Palmer from a talented enigma into a potential NFL franchise quarterback. Leinart is Chow's third protege to win the Heisman, along with BYU's Ty Detmer.

Leinart could also join Palmer as an NFL first-round pick, maybe as soon as April if he decides to skip his final college season.

That's quite a rise for the geeky kid from Santa Ana, Calif.

"No, I was a fat kid and cross-eyed and had glasses about an inch thick," Leinart said. "I use to get made fun of. It's been a long time since those days."

## Klitschko stops Williams to defend heavyweight title

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Vitali Klitschko staked his claim to being the true heavyweight champion Saturday, knocking Danny Williams down four times and giving him a savage beating before finally stopping him in the eighth round.

He then dedicated the win to democracy in his native Ukraine, where he planned to head Sunday to support the opposition presidential candidate.

"I feel this was the best performance of my career," Klitschko said. "But this victory was not just for me, but also for democracy in the Ukraine."

Klitschko retained his WBC heavyweight title in a lopsided fight that left Williams bloodied, battered and barely able to see.

Williams was taken to a local hospital for a brain scan after the fight, while Klitschko also went to have x-rays taken of his swollen hands to see if they were broken from hitting Williams on the head so many times.

Williams remained game even after the final knockdown in the eighth round, getting up at the count of nine and wanting to continue. But referee Jay Nady decided he had taken enough punishment and waved the fight to a close at 1:26 of the round.

"I feel I am the real heavyweight champion," Klitschko said. "I'm willing to fight anybody."

Klitschko, who owns just one of the three major heavyweight titles, made a case for being the

best of the three champions in a dominating effort against a game but completely outclassed challenger.

Klitschko did something Mike Tyson couldn't do against Williams, knocking him down in the first round and giving him such a beating that Williams couldn't come back as he did in his upset win over Tyson.

Williams tried his best, plodding after Klitschko in the third round, but he rarely got inside the 2.01-meter (6-foot-7) champion's stiff jab and took a pounding from his right hand.

"My strategy was to use my reach because I knew he would try to get close to me," Klitschko said.

There had been questions about Klitschko's stamina and his tendency to cut around his eyes, but he had no problems with either in a fight he dominated from the opening bell.

With his brother, Wladimir, working the corner, Klitschko swarmed all over Williams in the opening round, landing 52 punches to only four for the challenger. He knocked Williams down with 37 seconds left in the round and hit him almost at will.

Klitschko wore an orange flag on his trunks, signifying his support for Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko. Others in the crowd waved Ukrainian flags and orange flags, the color of their candidate's campaign.

## Red Sox sign Wells; Pavano courts Yanks

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—David Wells

made the surprising decision to sign with the Boston Red Sox, Carl Pavano picked the New York Yankees and Roger Clemens narrowed his choices to the Houston Astros or retirement.

Pittsburgh and Cleveland finalized the first trade of the winter meetings Saturday, with reliever Arthur Rhodes going to the Indians for outfielder Matt Lawton.

Boston also worked to re-sign Pedro Martinez and add short-stop Edgar Renteria. And while the Yankees' efforts to sign Pavano moved forward, there might be a hitch in New York's deal with Jaret Wright, with the team still evaluating the results of his physical.

As nearly two dozen managers talked about their offseason moves, Atlanta's Bobby Cox said John Smoltz might rejoin the starting rotation if the Braves find another closer, and Atlanta negotiated to acquire Danny Kolb from Milwaukee. Oakland discussed trading Tim Hudson, possibly to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Baseball's annual swapfest also had a bit of spectacle on Day Two of the four-day session. Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman arrived in a lobby filled with baseball executives and agents accompanied by two tall showgirls wearing feathered headdresses and an one gold-clad Elvis impersonator, campaigning for major league

baseball to put a team in the gambling mecca.

Free-agent first basemen Richie Sexson and Carlos Delgado also showed up to meet with teams.

Wells, a loud lefty known for his unabashed love of Yankees history, agreed to an \$8 million, two-year contract with Boston that could be worth up to \$18 million over two years, a deal subject to Wells passing a physical.

It will be sort of a Babe Ruth reverse commute for Wells, who spent four seasons with the Yankees during two tours. In June 1997, he even wore a Ruth cap from 1934 during a game against Cleveland.

Red Sox manager Terry Francona declined comment on Wells, but he said he wasn't worried about having too many characters on the defending World Series champions.

"Last year we had a lot of strong personalities but they didn't really go their own (way)," Francona said. "They just came together. I guess that's what you want."

Wells, 41, went 12-8 with a 3.73 ERA last season for his hometown San Diego Padres and made \$6 million. He gets a \$3 million signing bonus from the Red Sox, salaries of \$2.5 million a year and the chance to earn \$200,000 per start from 11-20 and \$300,000 per start from 21-30.

"With the offer he got, it looked like it was an easy decision," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

Cashman wasn't surprised Wells bolted to his old enemy.

"Despite his love for the Yankees, he walked away from us last year," Cashman said. "The bottom line is it's a business. He had to do what's best for him and his family."

With Pavano, the Yankees' rotation will get younger. Anaheim, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit and Seattle also sought the right-hander, 18-8 with a 3.00 ERA for Florida last season.

Pavano called his agent, Scott Shapiro, on Saturday morning and informed him of his decision, and Shapiro and Cashman closed in on a four-year contract worth about \$39 million.

New York also has a preliminary agreement with right-hander Jaret Wright on a \$21 million, three-year contract, but the Yankees still are evaluating his physical exam, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity, and hasn't determined whether he passed it or failed it. Wright, who turns 29 later this month, had shoulder surgery in 2000 and 2001. He went 15-8 with a 3.28 for Atlanta last season, the best year of his big league career.

Clemens, 42, said last week that he was leaning toward retirement and his agent, Randy Hendricks, said the seven-time Cy Young Award winner probably will make his decision between Jan. 5-20. If Clemens decides to pitch in 2005, he and the Astros either will agree to a contract or his salary will be determined by an arbitrator.

"It certainly makes a statement to us about how Roger feels about the Houston Astros," new general manager Tim Lincecum said. "Our interest is sincere and we'd certainly love to have him back."

Clemens' commitment to the Astros could help the team resign star center fielder Carlos Beltran, the prize of this year's free-agent class.

"It's not why we did it, but we understand there might be an impact," Hendricks said. "He thinks the world of Carlos and hopes he re-signs."

Rhodes, a 35-year-old left-hander, was acquired by Pittsburgh from Oakland on Nov. 27 in the trade that sent catcher Jason Kendall to the Athletics. Rhodes lost his closer's job last season while going 3-3 with a 5.12 ERA for the A's. He will become Bob Wickman's setup man in Cleveland.

"There were a multitude of things that happened to him to explain why he had a bad year. We're still hopeful he's going to be a strong, solid contributor in the bullpen," Cleveland general manager Mark Shapiro said.

Lawton was a huge disappointment with the Indians, who acquired him in the 2001 trade that sent Roberto Alomar to the New York Mets. The 33-year-old battled injuries during much of his three seasons in Cleveland.

"He's got some power, a left-handed hitter, it adds some nice balance to our offense," general manager Dave Littlefield said.



# Montgomerie leads Target World Challenge

**THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.** (AP)—Colin Montgomerie

passed a big test Saturday, overcoming a few obnoxious fans and a pairing with Tiger Woods to post a 4-under 67 and take a two-shot lead in the Target World Challenge.

Montgomerie was hardly intimidated playing with the tournament host, needing only four holes to put four shots between them on the leaderboard.

And when Jay Haas made a charge into the lead, the 41-year-old Scot responded with a 4-iron into 8 feet for eagle on the par-5 16th and a 9-iron into 8 feet for another birdie on the 17th to finish at 13-under 200.

“There’s no satisfaction beating any player,” Montgomerie said. “The satisfaction comes from seeing your name on the top of the leaderboard.”

Sweeter yet would be seeing it there Sunday afternoon, having Woods hand him the trophy and cashing the \$1.25 million check, the fourth-largest payout.

Woods recovered from a terrible start—3 over after four holes—with a birdie-par-birdie finish for a 69 that left him two shots behind along with Haas (67) and Jim Furyk, who birdied five of his last six holes for a 67.

Miguel Angel Jimenez had the low round of the day at 66 and was another shot behind.

Montgomerie enjoyed the warmth of southern California and the reception from the fans, but not all of them. One man cheered loudly when he



Colin Montgomerie of Scotland, tees off on the eighth hole as Tiger Woods looks on during the third round of the Target World Challenge, Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

missed a birdie at the 12th, and the Scot glared.

“That was uncalled for,” Woods said, who had security talk to the fan.

Asked about it later, Monty brushed it off. He was more excited about his play.

Montgomerie is in good position to win his first stroke-play title in the United States. He won the Match Play Champion-

ship in 1998—the year before it became an official event—and the Skins Game in 2000.

The Target World Challenge doesn’t count in the record books, although Montgomerie surely would take satisfaction out of beating Woods, Vijay Singh and the rest of the elite, 16-man field at Sherwood.

“It’s obviously a big mistake he invited me in the first place,”

Montgomerie said with a laugh.

And given his history being paired with Woods in stroke play—a drubbing at the ‘97 Masters, a three-hole playoff loss in Germany two years ago—Monty showed he was headed in the right direction.

“If you had said I would shoot 67, I would have walked home—well, not home, but to the hotel,” he said. “If you would tell me

I’ll shoot 67 tomorrow, I’ll walk to the airport.”

Woods probably wanted to walk home to Florida after his start.

He three-putted for bogey on No. 1, missing from 2 feet for par. He left a shot in the bunker at No. 3 and took double bogey. He three-putted for bogey on No. 4, missing that par putt from 3 feet.

“There were a lot of holes left,” Woods said. “I had been playing well all week, and I figured I might as well do what I had been doing, and not play hockey on the greens.”

His goal for Sunday?

“Get off to a better start than I did today,” Woods said.

The best start belonged to the 51-year-old Haas, who birdied four of his first six holes and had a two-shot lead when he got up-and-down for birdie from short of the 13th green. His only glitch was going long on the 14th hole for bogey, but he was solid coming down the stretch.

“It’s obviously a pretty impressive leaderboard, so I don’t think anybody is too intimidated seeing my name up there,” Haas said.

Furyk also struggled from the start, leaving two shots in the bunker at No. 3 for double bogey. But he had the best finish, with birdies on every hole except the par-5 16th.

About the only player missing is Singh, the PGA Tour player of the year. He birdied three of his first four holes, but made no progress the rest of the way and had to settle for a 68 that left him 11 shots out of the lead.

# Webber, Bibby help Kings hold off Pacers

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Chris Webber had 26 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, and Mike Bibby added 21 points to help the Sacramento Kings

hold off the Indiana Pacers 97-92 in overtime Saturday night.

“They made us take quick shots and we played a little selfish at times,” Webber said. “But we have to play on a more consistent level to be as good as we want to be.”

Indiana had six players reach double figures, but Reggie Miller missed his last eight shots and the Pacers lost their seventh straight.

Sacramento’s Brad Miller, an All-Star with Indiana, sealed the win with four free throws in the final 9 seconds of overtime.

Sacramento has won six of its last seven games.

Austin Croshere led the Pacers with 21 points—13 in the fourth quarter and overtime. Jeff Foster added 11 points and 18 rebounds.

“There is no explanation why we are missing 3-pointers,” Croshere said. “A loss is a loss, and we’ve got to shake this.”

## Mavericks 102, Rockets 78

In Houston, Michael Finley scored a season-high 26 points and led a huge third-quarter charge as Dallas handed Houston its biggest loss of the season.

Finley, recovering from a sprained right ankle, hit five of his eight 3-point attempts. He made four straight 3-pointers in a 23-8 run in the third quarter.

Dirk Nowitzki added 22 points and 14 rebounds for Dallas, and Tracy McGrady led Houston with 15 points.

## Grizzlies 72, Pistons 68

In Memphis, Tennessee, Pau Gasol scored 20 points and Shane Battier hit four free throws in the final 20 seconds to lead Memphis past Detroit.

Battier broke a 68-68 tie with two free throws with 19.4 seconds remaining, and added two more with 12 seconds left to complete the scoring. Detroit’s Rasheed Wallace missed a pair of 3-pointers and had another shot blocked by Gasol in the final seconds.

Wallace had 22 points for the Pistons, and Richard Hamilton scored 18.

## Bulls 99, Timberwolves 88

In Chicago, rookie Ben Gordon scored a career-high 31 points, 16 in the fourth quarter to help Chicago hold off a furious Minnesota comeback.

Minnesota trailed by 24 in the second quarter and rallied within one in the final period but couldn’t get the lead because Gordon scored 10 straight points for the Bulls at one juncture, hitting a pair of 3-pointers.

Kirk Hinrich added 19 points for the Bulls. Kevin Garnett had 16 points and 21 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

## Spurs 116, Cavaliers 97

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 34 points, and San Antonio had its best shooting night of the season.

The Spurs shot 84 percent from the floor in the first half to take a 69-45 lead, and finished the night at 66 percent.

Cleveland’s Drew Gooden scored a season-high 28, and LeBron James added 23 points and 10 assists.

## Nets 95, Hawks 90

In Atlanta, Richard Jefferson scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half, and Travis Best, starting in place of Jason Kidd, had a season-high 21 for New Jersey.

Kidd, who played 17 minutes as he continues to recover from a knee injury, hit five of six free throws in the final 33.4 seconds and finished with nine points.

Antoine Walker led the Hawks with 25 points and 13 rebounds.

## Celtics 98, SuperSonics 84

In Seattle, Paul Pierce scored 22 points and Gary Payton had 21 against his former team to help Boston beat Seattle and snap a three-game losing streak.

Payton set the tempo against the club he led for 13 seasons, outdueling second-year point guard Luke Ridnour, and the Celtics held Seattle to a season-low 32.6 percent from the floor and kept the Sonics scoreless in the final 3 minutes.

Mark Blount added 11 points for Boston, and Tony Allen had 12 to help the Celtics hand Seattle its first homecourt loss in 10 games this season.

Rashard Lewis scored 19 points to lead the Sonics and Ray Allen had 16.

The Sonics had won eight of nine after losing in Boston on Nov. 21, but now the Celtics are responsible for two of Seattle’s four losses on the season.

## Lakers 89, Clippers 87

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 37 points and had 10 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers edged crosstown rivals the Clippers.

The game was close most of the way, with Bryant helping pull it out by scoring nine points in a late 4:39 span. The Clippers had a chance to tie it in the final seconds, but Corey Maggette’s running jumper went in and out of the basket.

Bryant missed making it three triple-doubles in a row, finishing with five assists. Lamar Odom added 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers.

Bryant made all 10 of his free throws and the Lakers finished 20-of-20 from the line. The Clippers were 18-of-22. Maggette led the Clippers with 27 points.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	9	10	.474	—
Boston	8	11	.421	1
Philadelphia	7	12	.368	2
New Jersey	7	13	.350	2 1/2
Toronto	7	15	.318	3 1/2

Southeast Division				
Orlando	13	6	.684	—
Miami	14	7	.667	—
Washington	11	6	.647	1
Charlotte	4	13	.235	8
Atlanta	4	16	.200	9 1/2

Central Division				
Cleveland	12	8	.600	—
Detroit	10	10	.500	2
Indiana	10	10	.500	2
Milwaukee	6	11	.353	4 1/2
Chicago	4	14	.222	7

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
San Antonio	17	5	.773	—
Dallas	14	8	.636	3
Houston	9	12	.429	7 1/2
Memphis	9	13	.409	8
New Orleans	1	17	.056	14

Northwest Division				
Seattle	17	4	.810	—
Minnesota	13	7	.650	3 1/2
Denver	12	7	.632	4
Portland	9	9	.500	6 1/2
Utah	9	11	.450	7 1/2

Pacific Division				
Phoenix	17	3	.850	—
Sacramento	14	6	.700	3
L.A. Clippers	11	8	.579	5 1/2
L.A. Lakers	11	8	.579	5 1/2
Golden State	5	14	.263	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games	
New Jersey 95, Atlanta 90	
Memphis 72, Detroit 68	
Sacramento 97, Indiana 92, OT	
Dallas 102, Houston 78	
Chicago 99, Minnesota 88	
San Antonio 116, Cleveland 97	
Boston 98, Seattle 84	
L.A. Lakers 89, L.A. Clippers 87	

### TARGET WORLD CHALLENGE SCORES

Third Round		
Colin Montgomerie	67-66-67	200
Jay Haas	69-66-67	202
Jim Furyk	67-68-67	202
Tiger Woods	67-66-69	202
Miguel Angel Jimenez	68-69-66	203
Padraig Harrington	68-69-67	204
Chris DiMarco	69-67-70	206
Chad Campbell	70-68-69	207
Stewart Cink	70-69-69	208
Fred Couples	68-70-71	209
Davis Love III	70-66-74	210
Vijay Singh	74-69-68	211
Kenny Perry	73-73-69	215
Todd Hamilton	73-69-74	216
Stephen Ames	74-69-74	217
John Daly	73-69-75	217

### SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

**NBA**  
CLEVELAND INDIANS-Acquired LHP Arthur Rhodes from Pittsburgh for OF Matt Lawton. Named Nick Kenney assistant athletic trainer.  
HOUSTON ASTROS-Announced RHP Roger Clemens had accepted salary arbitration.

**NBA**  
SEATTLE SUPERSONICS-Placed C Robert Swift and F Damien Wilkins on the injured list. Activated G Ronald Murray and C Vitaly Potapenko from the injured list.

**NFL**  
CHICAGO BEARS-Signed G Bryan Anderson. Waived LB Corey Jenkins.  
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS-Placed T Chris Terry on injured reserve. Signed WR Jason Willis from the practice squad.

**College**  
MARYLAND-Announced sophomore basketball F Hassan Fofana has decided to transfer to another school.  
POST, CONN.-Named Matt Micros women's soccer coach and Craig Schroeder men's and women's cross country coach.  
SOUTH CAROLINA-Named Madre Hill assistant football coach.

By The Associated Press

### LOCAL SCORES

Govt. League Standings	
PSS	5 0
DOL	5 1
DCCA	4 2
DPS I	4 2
CHC	4 2
Tinian	1 1
NMC	3 4
CPA	2 3
P&S	2 4
OPA	1 4
DPS II	1 4
Mayor's Office	0 5



# Labor does number on OPA

By MARK RABAGO  
REPORTER

Department of Labor solidified their hold of second place in the 2004 Government Basketball League after beating Office of Public Auditor to a pulp, 76-46, Saturday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Like a diesel engine, DOL started rather slow but was still no match against an obviously overmatched OPA squad. With power forward Ray Roberto powering his way for all of his four points, DOL took a 14-8 lead after the opening quarter.

DOL players then began to find their rhythm in the second quarter. The menacing front-line of power forward Steve Rasa and center Tim Wesley erupted for 14 points, while sharpshooter Beverly Igitol let loose for four more, as Labor more than doubled up OPA, 34-16, at the break.



OPA leading scorer Chris Camacho tried in vain to lead his team back against DOL in the third quarter by firing six points. But it was futile in the face of a torrent of points from DOL.

Igitol bombed away from the land of plenty and Wesley and Rasa continued to control the paint, as DOL was able to take a 52-31 spread into the fourth and final quarter.

It was already a won ballgame for Labor as the playoff period got underway but Mitch Aaron used garbage time to shine on the court.

DOL's starting point guard put on the finishing touches on a dominating performance by his team, logging in nine of his 16 points in the final 10 minutes.

Rasa led four DOL players in double figures with 21 points. Aaron scored the aforementioned 16, Wesley 15, while Igitol wound up with 12 markers.

Camacho and Erick Atalig

were the only OPA players to end up in twin digits with 17 and 10 points, respectively.

The second game between Commonwealth Ports Authority and Tinian was postponed because the latter held its Christmas party the same time as game time.

The government league resumes tonight with a battle between the Commonwealth's two law enforcement agencies, as Department of Public Safety I faces DPS II in the 6:30pm first game. The 8pm second game then pits undefeated Public School System against OPA.

**DOL 76** – Rasa 21, Aaron 16, Wesley 15, Igitol 12, Tudela 6, Roberto 4, Paraiso 2.

**OPA 46** – C. Camacho 17, Atalig 10, Torres 9, D. Camacho 8, Tomokane 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 14-8, 34-16, 52-31, 76-46.

**Referees:** Dado Vistal and Jess Pacheco.

## Crime Stoppers a month away



By BRAD E. RUSZALA  
REPORTER

Slots are filling up for next month's 3rd Annual NMI Crime Stoppers Slow Pitch Softball Tournament, and organizers have offered a little more incentive for teams to hurry with their entries.

Following a meeting of the tournament directors last week, officials announced that there would be an extra \$50 added to prizes of the Top 3 teams.

In the 2005 edition of the tournament, only 12 teams will be permitted to compete for the trophy and newly increased \$300 prize for first place. The first 12 teams to sign up and pay in full will take part in all of the fun in the sun, and as of dinnertime yesterday, there were

already three teams that have thrown their hats into the ring.

The underhanded extravaganza that is the tournament will run through January 7, 8, and 9. The teams wishing to take part in the festivities need to sign up soon.

Besides the first place prizes, there will be a trophy and \$200 awarded to the first runner-up, a trophy and \$150 for the second runner-up, and trophies for the third and fourth runners-up.

All of the fun of tournaments past will be returning, as there will be two homerun derbies—one for the players, on Saturday, Jan. 8, and one for celebrities, on Sunday, Jan. 9. Though no list of the high-profile guests has been released, chances are good that many of the stars from last year's show will be returning to vie for the \$50 prize.

In keeping with recent tradition, the organizers have put together many exciting and valuable raffle prizes. It only takes one ticket to win the raffle, but tickets will be

on sale during the games for \$1 each. Somebody's dollar bill will win this year's grand prize—a pair of roundtrip tickets to Cairns, Australia courtesy of Continental Airlines. Continental also put up the award for the winner of the mini grand prize raffle—one roundtrip ticket to Manila.

The aspiring Barry Bonds types will receive an added incentive to swing for the fences this year, as all entrants of the Home Run Derby will receive 20 tickets for raffle drawing.

To enter the event, simply head over to Car Quest in Chalan Kanoa and fill out the entry and waiver forms, and pay the entry fee. The cost to enter a team in the annual tournament is \$250, and the cost to enter the homerun derby is \$20 per individual. All checks should be made out to NMI Crime Stoppers.

For further information, please contact Eric David by calling 664-9022, Jim Ripple by calling 235-2302, or Jerry Ayuyu by calling 664-9127.



MARK RABAGO

DOL's Ray Roberto tries to beat the game clock in their 2004 Government Basketball League game against Office of the Public Auditor Saturday.

## TINIAN

From Page 28

free ferryboat rides during the duration of the tournament.

Tinian netters have become a source of pride for the middle island of the Mariana Islands chain and have so far bagged eight first-place and second-place trophies in the doubles competition with more expected in the singles and mixed doubles division of the yearend tournament.

The Tinian father-and-son pair of Sonny and Benjie Decena had mixed fortunes in the men's 3.0 singles competition, however.

Sonny was nipped by third-seed Noel Manalang in three sets, 3-6, 6-0, 7-6 (8-6), while Benjie got the better of Boy Cruz, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Top seed Gary Ramsey, meanwhile, escaped the upset axe once again, edging Roy Banados 7-6 (7-4), 5-7, 6-1.

In men's 4.0, No. 1 seed Jess Pacheco's ailing foot finally gave way and he lost to speedster Beltau Toshi in a count of 6-1, 6-4. Father Ryan Jimenez vent out his frustration on Jorge Olanda, topping the men's double champion in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3. The night before, Jimenez lost to Raj Rai in a

close one in the men's 3.0.

Abet Encarnacion was also on a winning end of a 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) match against Eric Mahinay.

Top seed Boyet Minor was back in fine form against Buddy Garote, as the favored player advanced with a 7-5, 7-6 (9-7) victory in the men's 4.5. Also coming through in the men's open was Lito Cabrera, who beat an erratic Nicolas Son 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

In the women's 4.0, Ellen Uy, Agnes Salazar, and Ayumi Cajigan all won their matches. Uy defeated Sadako Arriola, 6-3, 6-2; Salazar upended Jenny Uy, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (9-7); and Cajigan downed Asun Demapan.

In mixed doubles, Marlon Estigoy and Audrey Motto prevailed against the husband-and-wife tandem of Gary and Karen Ramsey, 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 in the 3.0 division. The brother-and-sister pair of Reo and Mayuko Arriola also won against Dino Jones and Nelina Luna, 6-4, 6-1 in the mixed 4.0.

Garote and Ligaya Paculanang and Son and Kazumi Imai also scored triumphs in their mixed doubles 4.5 and open matches, respectively. Garote and Paculanang turned back Edwin Maratas and Vivian Lee, 6-4, 6-1. Son and Imai, on the other hand, bested Lope Padilla and Luna, 6-3, 6-1.

## SML

From Page 28

tied with six runs batted in.

Finishing in third with a 4-5 record were the Heinz & David North Stars, but they boasted the league's top hitter in Mike Cruz. The brightest North Star was 13-for-33 at the plate for a .394 batting average, but Cruz could not carry the team to the pennant by himself.

Cruz was joined by teammate Jesse Ramon on the list of top performers, as Ramon also smacked a triple this season.

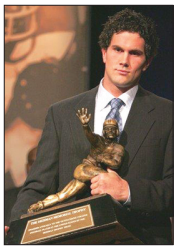
The Speaker Fitial Pirates also finished with a 4-5 record

in what has shaped up to be not a big season for them. The Pirates had their sights set on reclaiming the pennant, but a string of losses put an end to their hopes.

The second and third finishers in the batting race both played for the Pirates, as Pete Tomokane (.375) and Matt Kintol (.371) consistently found a way to produce for their team.

Tomokane, with teammates B.J. Seman and J.J. Taitano landed on the triple list, while fellow Pirate Dwight Quitano finished the season with six runs batted in.





**USC's Matt Leinart wins Heisman trophy**  
Matt Leinart replaced a Heisman Trophy winner and became one himself. The Southern California quarterback won college football's most prestigious individual award Saturday night.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Montgomerie leads Target World

Colin Montgomerie passed a big test Saturday, overcoming a few obnoxious fans and a pairing with Tiger Woods to post a 4-under 67 and take a two-shot lead in the Target World Challenge.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2004

# Flush It! takes PIC title



Just prior to playing the Clam Smackers in the finale of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Miller 4-Person Beach Volleyball League, Flush It! pose with their \$220 check for placing second in the regular season standings. Regular season MVP Don Dunlop gets into position to bump the ball for Flush It! during the championship game, inset.

BRAD E. RUSZALA



By BRAD E. RUSZALA  
REPORTER

**F**lush It! rallied back from a 5-9 deficit on Thursday night to down the Clam Smackers 15-13 in the single elimination tournament of the Top 8 teams from the regular season of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Miller 4-Person Beach Volleyball League.

Led by the league's most valuable player Don Dunlop,

Flush It! refocused their collective efforts to overcome mighty Clams, with teammates Aleta Glaze, Rannel Calexterio, Quincy Johnson, Jason Park, Marivic Rosario, and Richard Sikkell.

After players from all of the uniquely named teams competed on the sand courts of the Pacific Islands Club for weeks to decide the regular season champion, the top teams were invited to partake in the

one-night tournament.

The Clam Smackers started the tournament as the eighth seed, but quickly gained respect as they upset the regular season champion Slezzy Lambleezies, 15-11. They followed that up with a 15-5 shellacking of the Dragon Flares to get into the first place game.

Flush It! was expected to do well in the tournament, having suffered one loss through-

out the regular season. They started their night with a win against an injury riddled Bill Bratzski's, 15-10, and carried the momentum into their following match with rivals Bend It Like Megan.

Flush It! won the game by a 15-8 score, but the total was not a fair indication of how close the game was. Both teams had to fight for every point, but it was not to be for the crafty Bend It Like Megan.

The Clam Smackers' Doug Dewitt was voted by representatives from all of the teams as the league's most improved player, and was rewarded with a case of Gatorade, as did Dunlop for the MVP.

The champions were awarded seven PIC water-park passes and a meal at the Magellan restaurant for their winning ways, while the runner ups received seven water park passes.

## SML leaders a step above

By BRAD E. RUSZALA  
REPORTER

While the four teams of the Saipan Major League baseball's fall edition have wrapped up their season and already started the playoffs, the statisticians have released the final results of the top hitters and hurlers.

The Rep. Dave Apatang Hustlers repeated as pennant champions with a 6-4 record following a tiebreaker with the Kautz Glass Glazers, and they did so with some of the top hitters in the game.

J.R. Suel (.353), Manny Sablan (.286) and Roy Celis (.270) make up three of the Top 10 hitters in the league. Only four batters have had more success than Suel, who is also tied for second in doubles (3), and runs batted in (7).

Sablan is one of those tied with Suel in doubles, but he is in a world of his own in one category, as he knocked the first homerun of the wooden bat era last week. The steady catcher provides the power when needed, but teammate Celis produces offense all over the board.

Celis is also tied with Suel and Sablan with three doubles, scored the most runs (14), runs batted in (8), and is tied with teammates Jerome Delos Santos, Byron Kaipat and 10 players with one triple.

The Hustlers also lay claim to the top doubles hitter in Oliver Secharmidail (4), but with all of their top performers they still had to claw their way back from a 2-4 record to take the top spot.

The Kautz Glass Glazers finished the season in second place at 5-5, but they had a 1-2-3 punch of hitters as well in Tyrone Omar, J.P. Sablan, and Tony Palacios.

Omar finished fifth in the batting race with a .333, tied Celis with 14 runs scored, and a triple. Sablan hit .308, scored nine runs, and is one of the few that hit a triple in league play. Palacios finished with a .286 at the plate, while teammates Ben Taisacan and Bill Kaipat

See SML on Page 27

# Tinian netters take center stage on Saipan

By MARK RABAGO  
REPORTER



A total of 14 singles and mixed doubles matches went down in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

Taga Tennis Tournament at the American Memorial Park tennis courts Saturday. But the highlight of the evening was the action in the men's 3.0 doubles, where two teams from Saipan's southern neighbor tangled for the championship.

Lemuel Arabelo and Doi Ligan proved that patience pays when they finally hoisted the men's 3.0 crown following a hard-fought, three-set win over fellow Tinian tennis players Archie Montecilo and Joe San Nicolas.

Montecillo and San Nicolas, who defeated Massimo Flouti



MARK RABAGO

Lemuel Arabelo and Doi Ligan, left, pose with fellow Tinian tennis players Archie Montecilo and Joe San Nicolas before their men's 3.0 championship match Saturday in the 2nd Annual Taga Tennis Tournament.

and Christophe Bertin in the semis just the evening before, rode on that straight sets win to take the first set.

But Arabelo, who works on Saipan but goes home to his family on Tinian in the weekends, and Ligan buckled down to work and snatched the second to force a third and deciding set.

In the rubber set, Arabelo and Ligan, who advanced to the finals more than a week earlier, put out all the stops in the final race-to-six and took the win and the title in a score of 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

The two pairs as well as tournament organizer, Saipan Tennis Association, and Tinian Tennis Association would like to thank Tinian Mayor Francisco Borja and the Tinian Mayor's Office for providing Tinian players

See TINIAN on Page 27